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OPINION METER

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INSIDE



Rocket Launch

Japanese, South Korean and U.S. missile-destroying ships set sail to monitor North Korea's rocket launch.

ASIA...Page 16



Prodigies

The Manta String Ensemble was recently adjudged overall winner at the 5th Tumon Bay Music Festival.

CAMPUS LIFE...Page 17

'Defying Gravity'

It's hard to imagine Keith Urban choosing a more appropriate title for his fifth studio album.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 20

'\$14M in untapped CIP funds can be used for ILS' PAGE 2
PSS, IR employees set talks on immigration status. PAGE 3

Trial of Villagomez, et al begins

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

The prosecution and the defense began their opening salvos yesterday afternoon in the jury trial of Gov. Timothy P. Villagomez, each one making their opening arguments in a trial that will determine whether Villagomez and his co-defendants James A. Santos and Joaquina V. Santos engaged in a conspiracy to defraud CUC.

See TRIAL on Page 4

Nat'l diabetes study on Saipan waiting for DPH approval

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
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REPORTER

Once the Department of Public Health approves a national health study to be conducted on Saipan, up to a thousand participants—who will be paid \$25 each—will be able to help find

See NAT'L on Page 4

Fitial switches on rehabilitated power engine

By **KRISTI EATON**
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REPORTER

It was reminiscent of a scene nearly seven months ago. Lawmakers and government officials in white hard hats joined employees of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. as they watched Gov. Benigno Fitial flip a switch, adding 15 megawatts of power to the island at CUC's main power plant in Lower Base.

On Sept. 12, the switch turned on the emergency Aggreko generators, which vir-

See FITAL on Page 4

Gov. Benigno Fitial prepares to turn on engine 7 at CUC's Power Plant 1 in Lower Base. Wallon Young, CUC's deputy director for Utilities System Rehabilitation, stands beside him.

KRISTI EATON



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

ENVIRONMENT MONTH

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial joins officials and employees of environmental regulatory agencies for a photo right after he signed a proclamation declaring April as CNMI Environmental Awareness Month and April 22 as CNMI Earth Day during a ceremony on Capital Hill yesterday. See story on Page 5.



Underage drinking is rife in Marianas

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

The CNMI and Guam recorded an alarming number of minors who drink alcohol, and officials from both islands admit the practice has become prevalent and rampant in their communities.

In the CNMI, the Juvenile Probation Office reported a total of 58 minors involved in alcohol-related offenses in 2008.

These offenses, according to probation director Sylvio Ada during yesterday's 5th Micronesian Youth Services

See UNDERAGE on Page 4

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Local

'\$14M in untapped CIP funds can be used for ILS'

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

Tinian nearly has \$14 million in untapped Capital Improvement Project funds that could readily be used to complete an instrument landing system for the island, according to Sen. Joseph Mendiola.

Of the amount, \$7 million is earmarked for airport projects, \$3.9 million for landfill projects, and \$1.2 million for school projects, the Tinian Legislative Delegation chairman said.

"As of 2008, there's about \$14 million in CIP money for Tinian projects. We would like to see which among these fund balances can be used for the ILS, which

needs additional funding in order to push through," Mendiola said.

The ILS project, which has been in the works since 2006, has been suspended due to a budget shortfall of \$2 million.

Mendiola said the delegation will explore all avenues to identify funding for the ILS, which many believe is key to the development of the island's tourism industry.

"Normally, a specific CIP project is given a couple of years to complete and the fund goes back to the CIP account if the project does not push through. In a check with the CIP, there may be some areas in the fund balances that we can ask ... to complete our ILS," he said.

Mendiola met with CIP administrator Vicky Villagomez and CPA officials last Monday to finalize a decision on the ILS—whether to scrap the project or merely suspend it. The delegation had initially decided to drop the project due to the exclusion of the China market from the Guam-CNMI visa waiver program. They changed their minds after Monday's meeting.

Mendiola said that once certain fund balances are identified, the delegation would ask the Office of Insular Affairs to reprogram it for the ILS.

He said OIA representatives will be on island this month to check on the CNMI's various

CIP projects.

"We will meet with them and submit our reprogramming request [as soon as we identify the funds]..." Mendiola added.

The initial estimate for the project was \$4 million in 2006. Only \$3.5 million was approved by OIA. After three years, the projected cost increased to \$5.5 million based on the scope of work done by the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

An additional \$20,000 to \$80,000 is needed annually to maintain the ILS.

In admitting the need to also address the equipment needs at the new Tinian terminal facility, Mendiola said that they will ask the "transfer" of some airport

project CIP funds to the procurement of amenities such as air-conditioning units and electrical system.

The new terminal, funded by Federal Aviation Administration, has never been used since its completion two years ago

due to lack of equipment.

The existing old terminal building still serves as the island's departure and arrival site.

"Our goal is to have the Tinian International Airport complete with amenities and equipment such as ILS," Mendiola said, adding that they are optimistic on the "promise" of the casino industry and military buildup in Guam.

Senate hopes to name Rota park after soldier

The Senate unanimously passed a bill renaming the Rota Memorial Park in remembrance of a fallen soldier.

Senate Bill 16-52 would designate the park as "the Corporal Joe G. Charfauros Jr. Rota Veteran Memorial Park." The House of Representatives is scheduled to vote on the measure today.

Charfauros, 33, was one of four U.S. soldiers killed on June 20, 2007, in Baghdad, Iraq, following injuries sustained from an improvised explosive device that blew up near their vehicle. The soldiers were assigned to the 1st Battalion, 64th Armor Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, Fort Steward, Georgia.

During the 15th Legislature, the Rota Legislative Delegation

passed a Commemorative Resolution honoring Charfauros' "courage and valor [so] that [he] shall be forever remembered by the very grateful people of the Island of Rota and of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands."

"Therefore, the Legislature finds that the park shall remain in honor of all Rota's military veterans, however, Corporal Joe G. Charfauros Jr.'s name shall be adjoined to the park's title in honor of his ultimate sacrifice for our country," the bill stated.

Joe Junior was a police officer on Rota. He went back to Rota in December 2006 for his wedding to wife Stellita. They had three kids, Mikeangela, Junelle and Joe II. *(Kristi Eaton)*

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PSS, IR employees set talks on immigration status

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

Public School System leaders will meet with employees with Immediate Relative status this week to discuss the latter's concerns about the impact of federalization on their employment.

Elementary schools principals' representative Ignacia Demapan told *Saipan Tribune* that PSS has invited all IR employees to a meeting Friday at Saipan Southern High School.

All 96 IR employees—class-

room teachers, support staff, and technical manpower—are expected to attend the meeting, as well as lawyers for PSS.

The Department of Homeland Security earlier said that after the transition period, the CNMI will only have two categories: immigrants and non-immigrants. Those with IR status, DHS said, will not be considered after the transition period. However, they have opened an application support center on Saipan to assist these IRs in getting their "green cards" to avert a negative effect

on their status.

In Kagman Elementary School, about 10 employees, mostly support staffers, may lose their jobs if they don't obtain green cards.

It is stated in CNMI law that all government positions must be filled with U.S. citizen individuals and those with IR status.

"We want to prepare our schools and our employees on the possibility [that they may lose their jobs]. This early, PSS wants to hear from them their concerns so we may be able to

provide some assistance. Since our legal counsels and PSS officials are the ones directly communicating with the authorities on this, [we] want to make sure that our personnel are all well-informed about the issue," Demapan said.

PSS has over 500 classroom teachers, of which 66 percent are highly qualified. Non-HQTs were given a one-year contract provided they show good effort to pass the Praxis tests.

Many PSS positions have remained vacant for some

time now due to lack of funding and qualified candidates to fill the requirements.

Reyes said groups or individuals who are also willing to donate money to help defray some of the expenses and to help Pabale's family could call her at 235-4456 or 235-4458.

Philippine Labor attaché Joann Lourdes Lavilla yesterday said Philippine Consul General in the CNMI Wilfredo DL. Maximo wrote CNMI Labor Secretary Gil San Nicolas on Monday to ask him about Pabale's last legal employer of record.

"We are still waiting for the Labor secretary's response," said Lavilla.

Pabale did not renew his Overseas Workers Welfare Administration membership when it expired in 2007, making his family ineligible to receive life insurance benefits.

be reached," she said, adding that school principals are all encouraging their IR personnel to work on their papers.

"We need to have our people be informed on what needs to be done and what's going to happen ahead of time. Then from there, we can plan for the worst," the principal added.

KagES has 55 employees and is home to 624 students.

Body of Filipino worker waiting to be sent home Last known employer yet to be known

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
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REPORTER

The body of a Filipino worker who fell into a coma for a week before succumbing at the Commonwealth Health Center on Saturday is waiting to be sent home, pending the Department of Labor's determination of the worker's last employer of record, which is responsible for shouldering his medical and transportation expenses.

Rodolfo Pabale had been in a coma since the morning of March 21 after he had a stroke while cooking in his apartment in San Antonio.

A week later, on March 29, Pabale passed away at CHC. He was 62.

"He's a close friend of mine. I knew him since 1997 when I got here. Lately, he would always visit me in the afternoons," said Rolly Querijero.

He said Pabale's daughter is expected to come to Saipan to fetch her father's remains.

Pabale came to Saipan in 1992 to work as a purchaser at XO Market. After years with the company, his contract expired on Nov. 30, 2006. However, he asked for a six-month employment extension, which his employer approved. Pabale worked at XO Market until May 2007, according to Nina Reyes, an employee at XO Market.

Reyes said Pabale was with XO Market long before she started working for the same

company in 2002.

She said Pabale, after his contract with XO Market expired, was believed to be working for other companies, including Marianas Repair, Misamis Construction and Li Hua Store.

"Up to now, we're still trying to find out his supposed last employer. We will be surprised to know if after his contract with XO Market expired, he was still able to remain here on Saipan without a legal employer. We're not aware whether or not he had legal job after he worked with XO Market," Reyes said in an interview.

She, however, said that should XO Market is determined to be the last legal employer of record, then the company is willing to

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UNDERAGE

From Page 1

Conference, are usually accompanied with assault with dangerous weapons, assault and battery, disturbing the peace, and curfew violations.

Saipan Tribune learned that three minors were cited for driving under the influence of drugs and alcohol, as well as reckless driving last year.

Of the 58 violators, 49 were males and nine females, of various ethnicities.

“December was the month we saw the highest peak,” Ada said, adding that his office recorded 18 offenses during the holiday season alone.

Because the nature of the

violations are usually accompanied with assault and battery offenses, corresponding penalties range only between six months and three years’ incarceration.

Meantime, the Department of Public Safety disclosed that arrests of minors found consuming alcohol was 445 in 2003, 226 in 2007, and 347 in 2008.

In Guam, officials disclosed that one out of every three minors in their community are involved in underage drinking, based on a youth-risk survey conducted in 2007.

The report indicated that 7.8 percent of Guam high school students are drinking and driving—a 19-percent increase from the previous data.

Rebecca Respicio and Audrey Topasco, Guam’s repre-

sentatives in yesterday’s conference, said the same survey found that female minors are also drinking as much as their male counterparts.

One important finding, they said, was the correlation between underage drinking and plans to commit suicide. Suicide, they said, is the leading cause of death among the youth in Guam.

Check stores, establishments

The Alcohol Beverage Tobacco Control Division recommended a more regular and close monitoring of major stores and establishments around the islands to curb underage drinking.

Participants at the conference alleged that many stores,

particularly those owned by Chinese nationals, secretly allow the sale of alcohol to minors, even beyond the 10pm liquor ban.

Fr. Florentino Recaido, in a discussion with panelists yesterday, disclosed that some youths have confessed to him where they buy their alcohol.

“Is there any way our Commerce Department can closely look at these Chinese stores because, in conversation with some minors, they admitted buying those prohibited alcohol from them,” Recaido said.

ABTC director David Maratita admitted that the department—as much as it wants to check everything—can not make it happen because of a severe lack of manpower.

His division has only two enforcers trying their best to check and monitor all 657 establishments on island.

“This is why we need to come together because we can’t do it all. We’re understaffed,” he said.

Lenient law, community problem

Michael Evangelista from the CNMI Attorney General’s Office said they are currently reviewing the current statutes on juveniles and would soon make recommendations for its amendment.

He believes that the practice of selling alcohol to minors is a result of the “very lenient” juvenile law in the CNMI, which he said penalizes establishment-violators only \$100

and up to 90-day imprisonment for such offense.

“For these clubs, bars, and stores...\$100 is nothing,” he said.

Rep. Ramon Tebuteb pointed out, though, that increasing the penalty for violators is not a guarantee that the number of underage drinking cases would decrease.

“Can we guarantee that if we increase these penalties, the number of our underage drinkers would decrease? I believe we have to also work on prevention and focus our efforts on discipline,” he told the crowd, adding that he is also supportive of amending the juvenile act.

Starting this year, all Micronesian islands will be getting some \$350,000 in federal grant each to address underage drinking.

NAT’L

From Page 1

the cause of diabetes and kidney disease.

At least 1,800 individuals on Guam took part in the study sponsored by the National Institutes of Health and the Micronesian Institute for Disease Prevention and Research, in collaboration with other private and public entities.

Dr. Jeff Curtis of the National Institutes of Health, who is now

in Guam, said yesterday that Public Health Secretary Joseph Kevin P. Villagomez and Commonwealth Health Center administrator Pete Untalan have yet to grant a final approval for the study to be done here.

“Approval from the local agency is very important...We would love to get as many as 1,000 [participants] on Saipan,” Curtis told Saipan Tribune in a phone interview.

Those who are at least 50 percent Chamorros, Carolinians, other Micronesians, and Filipinos

qualify to take part in the study, should DPH grants a final approval for it to be conducted here.

Participants must also be at least 18 years old. If women, they should not be pregnant.

“The purpose of this study is to find if there are genes that are responsible for kidney disease in people who have diabetes. As you know, some people with diabetes develop kidney disease...Hopefully, down the road we can come up with preventive measures and treatment but first we have

to find what causes it,” said Curtis, who is from Phoenix, Arizona.

Those who will take part in the Family Investigation of Nephropathy and Diabetes, FIND, study will be asked to participate in a 20- to 30-minute interview, and undergo blood pressure and cholesterol measurement, and blood and urine tests for diabetes and kidney disease.

Curtis said the FIND study on Saipan has been tentatively set for April 13 to 21. The dates may either be moved to a later time or

cancelled should DPH decides not to grant its approval.

“The people from CNMI Department of Public Health have been very gracious and respectful...Hopefully we can get their approval,” he said.

Dr. Richard Brostrom, medical director for public health, said there’s no word yet from the DPH administration, but said that FIND officials will be on island this week to meet with local health officials and discuss the study.

“The administration of the

health department wants to make sure patient safety and confidentiality are protected, and results are consistent with CNMI health policies. It’s an NIH project and we’ll be sure the procedures will be done in a professional manner,” said Brostrom.

The CNMI has been found to have the third largest number of cases of diabetes after Pima Indians and Nauru. Based on 2002 statistics, there are over 3,000 known diabetes patients in the CNMI, mostly Chamorros and Carolinians, and other Pacific islanders.

FITIAL

From Page 1

tually halted the blackouts and rotating brownouts on the island. Yesterday, the flip of the switch added 15 more megawatts of power, and was CUC’s first step in turning off

the Aggreko generators and shipping them out come mid-September, when the one-year \$6 million contract ends.

About 15 men watched as Fitial turned on engine 7 at Power Plant 1. That engine, along with engine 3 turned on earlier, adds 15 to the 9 megawatts the plant was producing. CUC engineers

and mechanics have been working on overhauling the engines for months. The utility agency still has five more engines to repair by the September deadline.

A load has been lifted by turning on the two engines, CUC executive director Antonio Muña said.

“Just hitting these bench-

marks, as projected, and realizing it, really says a lot about the management and staff here, and the employees who make sure the job gets done,” he said.

He said engine 2 is expected to be up and running by April 30 and engine 1 by May 31.

The benchmarks are set by a timeline Fitial submitted to the Of-

fice of Insular Affairs in order to get additional money for the repairs.

“We’re apparently on track, as was best hoped for, when the office made the commitment to support the governor’s request,” said Jeff Schorr, OIA’s field representative, adding CUC has hired a very qualified individual to oversee the effort. To receive

the \$3.89 million in funding, CUC was required to hire a deputy director for Utilities System Rehabilitation.

Wallon Young, a former employee of American Samoa Power Authority, was hired for the position and has been on board since February. He earlier worked with CUC as part of Quantum Pacific.

TRIAL

From Page 1

Twelve jurors plus six alternates were selected yesterday morning, followed by the opening arguments at 2pm.

Before the start of the arguments, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Alex R. Munson called all lawyers involved in the case and one juror. After a brief discussion, the judge excused the juror from the courtroom.

Assistant U.S. attorney Eric O’Malley said the case is all about power and the people who abuse that power. He said Villagomez and the Santos couple are on trial because they cheated the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.

O’Malley cited the defendants’ involvement in six CUC transactions to purchase thousands of gallons of a descaling chemical called Rydlyme that came with a 375 percent markup and violated conflict of interest laws.

The prosecutor said the case is not about Rydlyme, but how CUC bought the chemical, how much it purchased, and the reason for the purchase.

O’Malley said most of the thousands of gallons of Rydlyme sold to CUC under the transactions were never used.

Scheme

He said the scheme started in February 1988 when James Santos and his ISLA Sales Micronesia and Villagomez, who was then CUC executive director, agreed to make CUC purchase 357 gallons of Rydlyme for \$13,125.

O’Malley said Villagomez paid the company of James Santos, his brother-in-law, for the chemical. In that deal, he said, James Santos profited over \$9,000.

O’Malley said the first deal came through, so another transaction was planned, involving 2,000 gallons of Rydlyme worth \$70,000. However, a problem arose because procurement regulations state that there should be a contract if the transaction involves \$50,000 or more.

To avoid the contract requirement, O’Malley said, Villagomez split the purchase by making three purchases at \$35,000 each. Villagomez allegedly justified this by purchasing 1,000 gallons of Rydlyme each for Rota and Tinian.

The government lawyer said Rota and Tinian, which have their own procurements, never asked for Rydlyme.

Under CUC’s procurement regulations, a contract cannot be divided, O’Malley said.

“He [Villagomez] doesn’t care, he just want to buy more and more Rydlyme,” he said.

Of the \$70,000 CUC payment, James Santos and his company profited over \$60,000, according to O’Malley.

Split transactions

O’Malley said CUC employees stopped using the Rydlyme as the chemical proved too strong, but this did not stop Villagomez from buying 3,000 more gallons of the chemical from James Santos, worth \$105,000.

Again, the prosecutor said, Villagomez split the contract at \$35,000 each or 1,000 gallons each for Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

O’Malley said witnesses will tell that Rydlyme was piling up on the three islands as CUC crew did not use the chemical for the power engines.

This did not stop the fifth transaction, O’Malley said, with Villagomez authorizing the purchase of \$49,000 worth of Rydlyme in December 1999. He said it was capped at \$49,000 so that Villagomez could skirt the rules requiring a contract for \$50,000 transactions.

In 2002, Villagomez was elected congressman and in 2006 he became lieutenant governor.

Puppet

As lieutenant governor, the prosecutor said, Villagomez was back in power to run CUC again. He

said Villagomez needed a puppet in the name of Anthony Guerrero to run CUC.

With CUC experiencing power engine problems, this gave James Santos another opportunity to sell CUC more Rydlyme, O’Malley said, leading to the sixth transaction in September 2007 when CUC purchased 3,000 gallons of Rydlyme worth \$120,000.

With James Santos facing an investigation in 2000 about the Rydlyme, he allegedly devised another plan by making his wife, Joaquina, put up a new company called Blue Pacific. Villagomez, as lieutenant governor, initiated a sole-source emergency contract with Joaquina Santos’ Blue Pacific. This earned blue Pacific \$120,000, O’Malley said.

He said that on Dec. 7, 2007, James Santos signed a \$15,000 check payable to Villagomez. That same day, Villagomez deposited the check into his personal bank account, O’Malley said.

Defense

David Lujan, counsel for Villagomez, said that evidence will show that from 1998 to 2000 there were orders to purchase Rydlyme. Lujan said evidence will show that the orders were signed by many CUC employees, including Villagomez.

The defense lawyer said evi-

dence will show that it is William Powell who is the distributor of Rydlyme and not James Santos.

He cited some CUC employees who were sent off-island to undergo training about Rydlyme.

Lujan said evidence will show that the CUC crew who were sent for training were satisfied with how Rydlyme works.

Lujan said CUC had a legal counsel, former judge Edward Manibusan, who prepared the sole-source contract to buy Rydlyme in November 2007.

Lujan said evidence will show that there were many CUC employees who signed the contract.

“It became a legal and binding evidence,” the lawyer stressed.

Lujan said Guerrero attempted many times to get an admission from Villagomez through taped phone calls, but with “no luck.” What Villagomez told Guerrero was to talk with CUC’s legal counsel, Lujan said.

He said evidence will also show that the \$15,000 was not a bribe to Villagomez from his sister.

Victorino Torres, counsel for James Santos, also made his opening arguments.

When Saipan Tribune left the courtroom late in the afternoon, Ramon Quichocho, counsel for Joaquina Santos, was making his opening arguments.

Villagomez's motion to bar expert testimony is approved

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

The federal court yesterday granted Lt. Gov. Timothy P. Villagomez’s motion to bar the U.S. government from presenting any expert testimony during his trial with co-defendants James and Joaquina Santos.

In granting the motion, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Alex R. Munson ruled that the U.S. government’s disclosure was untimely. He also pointed out that the prosecution represented to both the defendants and the court at the pretrial conference that it would not call in experts.

Munson said, however, he does not preclude the U.S. government from calling the witness as a lay witness.

The judge said he also reserves whether the U.S. government will be allowed to call an expert as a rebuttal expert, if necessary.

New law extends beneficiaries of SHEFA funds

By KRISTI EATON

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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno Fitial signed a local bill into law yesterday that allows more local students to benefit from the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance scholarship.

Under Saipan Local Law 16-8, students who have no high school degree or the equivalent but who are working toward a degree can obtain financial assistance to help pay for the cost of a trade school.

"The delegation is cognizant that many in our community are still working to complete their

high school education and have the strong desire to learn a skill or trade so that they can become employable," the bill states. "It is time to focus some attention to those left out and provide the incentive to persuade some, if not all, to enter a trade program."

Previously, only students who finished high school were eligible for SHEFA funds.

Fitial, at the signing of the bill into law, said the new law would help provide the CNMI with a local workforce.

"Right now we've been relying on imported labor," he said.

Northern Marianas College was envisioned to be a trade

institution when it first opened, but because of a change in laws the college began focusing on professional programs in order to receive funding, he said.

Rep. Justo S. Quitugua echoed this. The initial reason for the establishment of NMC was to develop a local labor force, he said, but that changed over time.

This law will help attract more local students to trade schools like the Northern Marianas Trades Institute, he added.

One of the conditions of receiving SHEFA funds is that the students stay and work in the CNMI for at least one year in exchange for the scholarship

money. Since its inception in 2004, the scholarship program has yet to track down all the beneficiaries to see if they met the conditions.

Quitugua said it's hard to tell if the students will stay or leave.

He said jobs are becoming scarce here as businesses downsize. Some of the students have loans.

"As much as we would like them to come back here, but at the same time we cannot ask them to stay here and be unemployed and their students loans will continue to pile up," he said, adding that it is often beyond their control.

FITAL DECLARES ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS MONTH

Violators told: It's just a matter of time before you get caught

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Division of Environmental Quality director Frank Rabauliman warned those who ignore environmental regulations that they will get caught, while Gov. Benigno R. Fitial yesterday signed a proclamation declaring April as CNMI Environmental Awareness Month and April 22 as CNMI Earth Day.

"For those who continue to litter, continue to do projects without permits, I'm sorry to say but it's just a matter of time before there's going to be enforcement action coming to you," Rabauliman said in an interview after the governor's proclamation signing, which kicked off the one-month celebration.

The DEQ director said the division will not have second thoughts issuing notices of violations and other enforcement actions on those who are caught violating environmental laws and rules.

"We follow our regulations. Once we become lax in enforcing our regulations, then people lose confidence on us, people don't report the violations as they would and sometimes they would not even follow the procedures that are required, for example, in applying for a permit," he said.

Fitial called on members of the community to do their share to keep the CNMI clean.

"Individuals, families, visitors, business and the government: we are all responsible to ensure that Saipan, Tinian, Rota and the Northern Islands remain clean and green for our present and future generations. It is our obligation; it is our debt; it is our privilege. Let's work together," the governor said in his proclamation.

Upon the conclusion of the ceremony, Fitial reiterated, "Stay clean and green."

Pesticides collection

Following the success of last year's collection of household hazardous chemicals with the help of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Rabauliman said they will again conduct a collection drive but this time it will be for pesticides that are either no longer used or are banned in the CNMI.

He said this would be a good opportunity for businesses and other entities to bring these pesticides to DEQ for collection and off-island disposal. The collection will start in July.

David Rosario, chairman of the 2009 Environmental Awareness Month activities, announced the three winners of

the logo design contest.

They are first placer Yun In Ae, a 12th grader at Saipan Southern High School; second placer Andy Ji, a 10th grader at Northern Marianas Academy; and third placer Wayne Dawe, an 11th grader at Kagman High School.

The winning logo was unveiled during yesterday procla-

mation signing.

This year's Environmental Awareness Month theme, "Our environment is our home. Keep it clean and Safe," reinforces people's responsibility to maintain and protect their shared environment.

Today, an environmental expo will be held at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library in Susupe.

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NMI to host Economic Restoration Summit tomorrow

In an effort to develop and act on solutions to address the CNMI's economic downturn, the Department of Commerce and the Commonwealth Development Authority are teaming up to host the 2009 "Economic Restoration Summit" on April 2 and 3, 2009. The event will be held at the Fiesta Resort & Spa, Saipan.

"The objective of the summit is to bring together key stakeholders of the CNMI community and selected industry experts to discuss and determine a roadmap for developing new industries to help us pick up the CNMI economy," said Commerce

Secretary Michael Ada. "The development of new industries for the CNMI is vitally important at this time. This conference will help bring together CNMI resources, both public and private, in order to support entrepreneurs who make a commitment to participate in our revitalization."

Lt. Gov. Michael Cruz of Guam will be the keynote speaker for the summit. He will deliver his remarks at 1pm on the opening day of the summit.

Cruz will address the current efforts of the Guam Civilian Military Task Force and discuss the growing need for a

regional approach to the economic challenges facing the Marianas Islands.

Cruz will be accompanied by his chief of staff, Carlotta De Leon Guerrero, a former TV anchor on Saipan. Cruz has served as lieutenant governor since winning the 2005 election with Gov. Felix Camacho.

During the day and a half of meetings and brainstorming sessions, several guest speakers will present perspectives



Cruz

from new or emerging industries, including call centers, agriculture, aquaculture and other possible new industries for the CNMI.

The new "CNMI Comprehensive Development Strategic Plan for 2009-2014" will also be launched by the CEDS chairpersons, as well as a session on the "American Recovery & Re-investment Act: What the CNMI is Doing to Capitalize and How Existing Businesses

can Benefit."

Everyone is invited to participate in this Summit. To register for the event, send your name, address, company/corporation name, and island location to cnmibizz@gmail.com or call Edmond Villagomez or Maggie Camacho at the Department of Commerce at 664-3018/3077. Seating will be limited to the first 100 participants who register for the summit. (PR)

Chamber prepares students for life after high school

Forty-two graduating students from Grace Christian Academy, Mount Carmel School, and Kagman High School took part Saturday in a Saipan Chamber of Commerce activity intended to guide and prepare them for life after high school.

Chamber education committee chair Kathryn Barry spearheaded the "What's next after high school?" event and discussed two options for seniors—pursuing a career and college.

The same topics were shared with graduating members of other public and private high schools during previous weeks' sessions at Marianas High School and Saipan Southern High.

"We're encouraging them to do what's best for them. It is our goal to present them options they can take after graduating from high school and prepare them better for this life," said Barry, adding that whether they choose a career or college, students will never stop learning.

"Education is a lifelong process. It doesn't end with

high school, college, or even a doctorate. It may be packaged differently...but it still counts as learning," she told participants.

Besides group activities, participants were also taught proper ways of writing resumes and preparing for interviews. Students were also taught how to properly establish and communicate with employer, peers, and clients.

For junior student Bianca Blanco of GCA, the event helped her plan for her future.

"It's a good start for me. I find all the topics interesting for students especially those who are still confused about their plans after high school," she said.


Twelfth grader Berna Lotoc of KHS and MCS' Monique Deleon Guerrero said the is-

ssues presented will help them become more responsible individuals.

Joining Barry at the event were Chamber members Harry Blalock, executive director Kyle Calebrese, and Vicky Benavente.

Calebrese said that funds used for Saturday's event came from the Chamber's Installation Dinner, Corporate Challenge, and golf tournament.

Besides the workshop, the Chamber also offers scholarship opportunities. This year, the Chamber approved seven scholarships—two for students going to the Marianas Trades Institute and five for students studying locally or off-island. The Chamber has earmarked \$1,500 per student for this purpose. (Moneth Deposa)



5th Annual Miller Life MAHI FISHING DERBY


DATE : APRIL 4, 2009
LAUNCHING POINT : SMILING COVE MARINA ONLY
LAUNCHING TIME : 6:00 A.M. & UP
ENTRANCE FEE : \$100.00 PER BOAT FOR ONE CAPTAIN W/3 CREWS (4 TOTAL)
\$25.00 EACH ADDITIONAL CREW
TYPE OF FISHING : TROLLING
BOAT SAFETY INSPECTION : PRE-BOAT SAFETY INSPECTION (ENCOURAGED)
CONTACT: DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY (BOATING SAFETY UNIT) 664-9184 FOR INSPECTIONS
CATEGORIES : ONLY MAHI REGARDLESS OF WEIGHT QUALIFICATION


REGISTRATION STARTS AT 5:30 A.M.
THE DERBY OFFICIALLY BEGINS AT 6:00 A.M.
AND CONTINUES THROUGHOUT THE DAY UNTIL 5:00 P.M.
THE OFFICIAL WEIGH STATION IS AT SMILING COVE, ALL BOATS MUST ENTER THEIR CATCH AT SMILING COVE NO LATER THEN 5:00 P.M.

CASH PRIZES 1ST TO 5TH PLACE
PRE-REGISTRATION: SMILING COVE MARINA.
FRIDAY, APRIL 3, 2009
4:30 P.M. - 6:30 P.M.


THE AWARDS BANQUET FOR THE DERBY WILL IMMEDIATELY FOLLOW THE CLOSING OF THE EVENT & WEIGH-IN

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE DERBY, CONTACT THE MVA HEADQUARTERS AT (670) 664-3200/01 OR FAX TO (670) 664-3237 OR SEND INQUIRIES TO FTUDELA@MYMARIANAS.COM





Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Gualo Rai
Saipan, MP 96950



REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL DPW09-RFP-012

CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SERVICES FOR THE ROUTE 10/ROUTE 100 EMERGENCY REPAIRS, ROTA
FEDERAL AID PROJECT NO. CM-NH-1000 (005) ER AND CM-NH-0100 (002) ER

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Timothy P. Villagomez, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed proposals from qualified Architectural Engineering companies for the **Construction Management Services for the Route 10/Route 100 Emergency Repairs (ROTA)**.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations dated May 24, 2001, however, Article 7, "Local Business Preference", as amended by Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, is **not available** because its use is prohibited by the Federal Law granting the funding for this project. Proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with Section 4-102 of the Procurement Regulations.

Any corporation or partnership "firm" must have or obtained a valid Certificate of Authorization (COA) from the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Board of Professional Licensing (CNMI BOPL). Individuals and/or sole proprietors are required to possess a valid professional license issued by the CNMI BOPL.

The Scope of Work will be available on or after March 18, 2009 at the Department of Public Works, Technical Services Division, 2nd Floor, Oleal Commercial Center, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division. A **mandatory** Pre-Proposal Conference is scheduled for 9:00 a.m. local time at the Department of Public Works, Conference Room, 2nd Floor, Gualo Rai Commercial Building on April 3, 2009. Questions regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing to Mr. Joseph M. Inos, Jr., Director of Technical Services Division, 2nd Floor, Oleal Commercial Center, Saipan, or faxed to (670) 234-3547 no later than 4:30 p.m. local time April 17, 2009.

Proposals will be evaluated and scored bases on the following criteria:

1. Company Background and Qualifications (5 pages maximum each company) - **25%**
2. Qualifications of Team or assigned personnel and organizational structure (5 pages combined maximum) - **30%**
3. Past Experience of team and/or assigned personnel on projects successfully completed of similar size and scope (10 pages combined maximum) - **25%**
4. Current Workload of Firm (5 pages maximum) - **20%**

Proposals must be sealed and marked "DPW09-RFP-012". For proposers within the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of sealed proposals must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. local time, **April 22, 2009**. Proposers located outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a **Notice of Intent to Propose**. Notices of Intent to submit proposals must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local time, **April 22, 2009** and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515 or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For proposers located outside the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of sealed proposals must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **April 22, 2009** and must be received no later than **April 31, 2009**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

Discussions shall be conducted with at least three (3) of the firms regarding the contract requirements and technical approach and selection made there from, in order of preference, of no less than three (3) firms determined to be the most highly qualified to perform the services required. A contract shall be negotiated with the highest qualified Architect-Engineer firm at a price determined to be fair and reasonable to the government, factors such as the prices proposed by other firms responding to the solicitation shall be considered. If a fair and reasonable price cannot be negotiated with the highest-ranking qualified firm, then additional firms may be selected in order of competence and qualifications and negotiations continued until a fair and reasonable price is agreed upon.

The successful A-E firm will be subjected to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301.

This project is funded in whole by a grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). Contract award is contingent upon funding approval by the FHWA. All offerors shall be subjected to the provisions of the Federal Acquisition Regulations Part 52, Subpart 209-5, Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, Proposed Debarment, and Other Responsibility Matters, March 1996.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes that will be charged to the proposer awarded a contract for this project, including excise tax.

The Government reserves the right to reject any or all Proposals and to waive any imperfections in any Proposal in the best interest of the Government. All Proposals shall become property of the Government.

/s/ **DIEGO B. SONGSONG**
Secretary of Public Works

/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
Director of Procurement & Supply

*Thank you all for a successful
campaign kickoff rally!
Special thanks to Rota & Tinian supporters.*

**Ben Fitia
Eloy Inos**
2009

Covenant 
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NMI woos visitors from neighboring Guam

The Marianas Visitors Authority continues to market to Guam residents to encourage travel from the neighboring island to Saipan, Tinian and Rota.

Last weekend MVA participated in the Guam Wedding Expo at the Hyatt Regency Ballroom, sharing information about wedding and honeymoon packages with approximate 2,000 attendees. An ad in the 30,000 issue *Bridal Magazine* complemented the promotion.

"Although the Northern Marianas Islands and Guam are both beach destinations, Saipan, Tinian and Rota offers an expanded

choice of hotel accommodations, beautiful wedding chapels, and many unique island attractions found only here," said MVA managing director Perry Tenorio. "...and long after the wedding, we continue to offer couples romantic rest and relaxation only a short flight away."

This month MVA anticipates a marked gain in travelers from its island neighbor with last Friday's arrival of the USS *Frank Cable*, a submarine tender based in Guam. Making one of its regular cruises to Saipan, this year the ship carried 1,213 crewmembers and

400 family members.

The NMI received 19,793 visitors from Guam last year.

Increased efforts to bring more travelers from Guam are planned. (MVA)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, Vince Castro, Hilma Castro, Fr. Isaac Ayuyu, Jeanne Emry, and Mike Emry.

ME Weekend graduates 24 couples

The CNMI Chapter of the Worldwide Marriage Encounter graduated 24 new couples from its Spring Weekend, which took place March 27-29, 2009. The presenting team consisted of Jess and Anicia Sonoda, Fr. Isaac Ayuyu, Mike and Jeanne Emry and Julian and Marcia Calvo, with Bishop Tomas A. Camacho

welcoming the new couples at the start of the Encounter.

The Marriage Encounter community also selected its new Ecclesial Leadership Team, facilitated by the Section 12 leaders Mike and Jeanne Emry from California. The new leaders are couple Vince and Hilma Castro and Fr. Ayuyu. The Chapter

cited Ayuyu and couple Charles and Cathy Cepeda for the past two years of leadership service.

The Marriage Encounter community will be having a

weekend reunion

on Thursday, April

2, 2009, starting

with a 6pm Mass,

followed by the re-

union at the Saipan

Grand Hotel's Sea-

side Hall. For newly

encountered couples, this will be their final presentation of the Weekend. Encountered couples are invited to meet the new couples.

Refreshments are most welcome; bring any to share.

For more information, contact Jeff and Sonia Camacho at 483-7330/4. (PR)



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Email: mawfsguam@ite.net • www.wish.org
Office Hours: 8:30am to 5:30pm, M-F daily

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

April 1, 1999

Health eyes cuts to save jobs

The Department of Public Health is planning to carry out a seven-hour work per day schedule among the administrative staff since its budget for fiscal year 2000 has only been pegged at \$33.9 million. Public Health Secretary Kevin Villagomez said the amount to be saved in work hour reduction would be used in the purchase of medical supplies. "We have no choice but to live within our means because the economic situation only permits us to operate within this level. It is really going to be difficult for us to maintain a huge facility at a very low budget," he said. Eighty percent of the \$33.9 million budget will go to salaries of personnel alone while the remaining amount will be spent on operations.

Nine in race for 'best offer'

An independent evaluator for the new power plant on Saipan will be given a free hand to undertake the second phase of review on the proposals that fell within the "competitive range" after the initial round, officials assured yesterday. The chair of the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation, Juan S. Dela Cruz, said nine companies in the list—out of 13—would be asked to submit their "best and final offers" which is based on the recommendation of Burns & McDonnell, the private engineering firm hired for the independent review. He is not clear, however, on how the second round will be conducted as Enron International, which is closely competing to seal the \$120 million contract, has raised questions on the procedures.

April 1, 2002

Farallon bombing continues

The U.S. Navy's disposition to continue with the bombing exercises on Farallon de Mendinilla despite a federal court order declaring such practice illegal became more apparent, as it disclosed extending the schedule of live fire training that was supposed to end last night. The Emergency Management Office released a new advisory stating that the military would be conducting live fire training this April. "Due to the danger imposed by this activity, the general public, especially fishermen, commercial pilots and tour operators, are advised to stay away from this location during the time and dates indicated," the advisory stated.

TF targets rehab of youth offenders

The new Juvenile Crimes Enforcement Coalition said its ultimate goal is to rehabilitate juvenile offenders, instead of subjecting them to incarceration, which has been the usual consequence for criminal wrongdoing. "What has been discussed so far by the task force is to look into developing a program that's more geared toward putting these kids through rehabilitation and away from incarceration," Police Sgt. James C. Deleon Guerrero disclosed during a press conference last week. Deleon Guerrero, however, said that before a rehabilitation program can be established, the task force has to assess existing programs in the juvenile justice system and gauge their effectiveness.

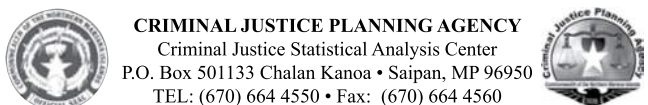
April 1, 2003

Anti-SARS measures enforced in airports

The Transportation Security Administration Saipan Office and the Commonwealth Ports Authority have crafted safety procedures at CNMI airports in efforts to prevent the possible entry of the mysterious disease that is on the rise in other countries. TSA Saipan Director John T. Peoples disclosed that a number of masks and sanitizers were immediately distributed to all screeners deployed at the Saipan, Tinian, and Rota airports as preventive measure against contracting the disease-called severe acute respiratory syndrome-from inbound passengers. Although there is no immediate risk, Peoples explained that TSA received an advisory from the Department of Public Health regarding the spread of SARS.

DPH issues travel advisory for SARS

Commonwealth-bound travelers arriving from Hong Kong; Guangdong, China; Vietnam; and other Asian countries identified to have been affected by the deadly illness known as severe acute respiratory syndrome, or SARS, need to monitor their health and seek medical help immediately when necessary, according to the Department of Public Health. The DPH, in an advisory released yesterday, said that recent travelers need to monitor their health for at least seven days. "During your recent travel, you may have been exposed to SARS. If you become ill with fever accompanied with cough or difficulty in breathing, you should consult a physician," DPH acting secretary Joaquin I. Taitano said.



CRIMINAL JUSTICE PLANNING AGENCY
Criminal Justice Statistical Analysis Center
P.O. Box 501133 Chalan Kanoa • Saipan, MP 96950
TEL: (670) 664 4550 • Fax: (670) 664 4560

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Criminal Justice Planning Agency (CJPA) is hereby giving notice that the CNMI Supervisory Council will hold its Special Meeting on Monday, April 6, 2009 from 9:00 am to 11:00 am at the Judicial Court Conference Room.

AGENDA

- I. Call to order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Review and Adoption of Agenda
- IV. New Business
Review and Approval of Byrne JAG Recovery Act Application
Submission to Bureau of Justice Assistance, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice
- V. Old Business
- VI. Announcements
- VII. Adjournment

Should you need more information, please call the CJPA at 664-4550-7.

/s/ Hon. Miguel S. Demapan
Chairperson, CJPA Supervisory Council

/s/ Mr. Jerome I. Jerome
Executive Director, CJPA

Publication of this notice was paid for with federal funds made possible by Grant# 2006-DJ-BX 0421, from the Bureau of Justice Assistance, Office of Justice Program, U.S. Department of Justice.

Economic Restoration Summit

You are cordially invited to join us as we explore solutions to strengthen our economy



April 2, 2009

8:30 am – 4:30 pm

Registration 8:00 to 8:30 am

Limited Registration

April 3, 2009

8:00 am – 12 noon

FIESTA Resort & Spa – Saipan

Keynote Speaker:

Honorable Lt. Governor Michael Cruz, MD
Guam

RSVP: 664-3077

cnmibizz@gmail.com

CNMI
Hosted by: Department of Commerce, Commonwealth Development Authority

Saipan Grand Hotel launches Island Spirit promo



MARK RABAGO
Island Spirit @ The Grand promotion will have staff of Aoi Restaurant incorporate mwar and leis as part of their uniform.

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Saipan Grand Hotel continues its celebration of Chamorro and Carolinian cultures by extending its 20 percent VIP discount to local residents at Aoi Restaurant throughout the entire month of April.

The usual 10-percent discount is being increased to 20 percent off for local guests at Aoi Restaurant's daily lunch buffet—the very popular Authentic Chamorro and Mexican Cuisine Lunch Buffet—as well as its Dinner Teppan and Sunday Brunch.

"It's just our way of showing our deep and heartfelt appreciation to the local Chamorro and Carolinian communities who have supported us throughout this years," Assistant F&B manager Fernando "Ding" Ureta said.

Ureta said that staff of Aoi Restaurant will incorporate mwar and leis as part of their uniform starting this April, in tune with the hotel's Island Spirit

it@The Grand promotion.

In addition, chef Danny Dela Cruz will also serve traditional local treats and desserts like titiyas, apigigi, rosketti, tamales, and potu that will surely tickle the sweet tooth of indigent diners.

Aside from the 20 percent discount extended to locals, Aoi Restaurant is also giving seniors 30 percent discount and children under 5 years old 50 percent off.

Club V is also expected to join the fun as Ureta hinted that plans are afoot to hire local bands and artists to play at the disco every night.

"We not only want to promote local food but local musical talent as well. This April will indeed be a celebration of Chamorro and Carolinian cultures," he said.

For the month of April, Club V will also have a Wear Island Spirit theme where partygoers who come in wearing a mwar, sarong, or lei will immediately be entered in a raffle drawing where exciting prizes are at stake.

Saipan Grand is also offering a "Special Getaway for 2" package for just \$88. For that price, couples get a room any day of the week and return on the weekend for Sunday Brunch at Aoi Restaurant. If they wish, couples can also avail of the weekday lunch buffet and Dinner Teppan in lieu of Sunday Brunch.

Those who avail of the package also get free play at Whimsy Arcade Center, free swimming pool pass, and free entrance at Club V.

The F&B assistant manager also assured that Island Spirit@The Grand won't be a one-shot deal, as Ureta aims to make the celebration of Chamorro and Carolinian cultures a yearly

thing at the Susupe landmark.

"I always believe that any business will not prosper without the help of local people and that's why this month Saipan Grand will show how dear our Chamorro and Carolinian friends are by treating them as VIPs and giving them additional food and room discounts," said Ureta.

For only the month of April, Saipan Grand is also offering a 10 percent discount on its banquet services (birthdays, anniversaries, christenings/dedications, and weddings, etc.).

For more information about the Island Spirit@The Grand promotion for April, call Saipan Grand at 234-6601 or 235-6616.

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3 ■ **\$133.30/night**

- Mountain View
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- One day car rental

4 ■ **\$144.30/night**

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- One day car rental

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- Rooms subject to availability
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SHIPPING SCHEDULE



Outbound from Asia	Voyage No.	ETD Jakarta	ETD Bangkok	ETD P. Kelang	ETD Melbourne	ETD Singapore	ETD Hochiminh	ETD Busan	ETD Kobe	ETD Shanghai	ETD Auckland	ETD Manila	ETD Hongkong	ETD Kaoshiung	ETD Naha
MELL SENOKO	019E	3/21 Sat	3/19 Thu	3/19 Thu	3/17 Tue	3/14 Sat	3/27 Fri	3/23 Mon	3/22 Sun	3/15 Sun	3/15 Sun	3/23 Mon	3/27 Fri	3/29 Sun	3/31 Tue
MELL SENTOSA	018E	3/28 Sat	3/26 Thu	3/26 Thu	3/24 Tue	3/21 Sat	4/3 Fri	3/30 Mon	3/29 Sun	3/22 Sun	3/22 Sun	3/30 Mon	4/3 Fri	4/5 Sun	4/7 Tue
MELL SINGAPORE	031E	4/4 Sat	4/2 Thu	4/2 Thu	3/31 Tue	3/28 Sat	4/10 Fri	4/6 Mon	4/5 Sun	3/29 Sun	3/29 Sun	4/6 Mon	4/10 Fri	4/12 Sun	4/14 Tue
MELL SENOKO	020E	4/11 Sat	4/9 Thu	4/9 Thu	4/7 Tue	4/4 Sat	4/17 Fri	4/13 Mon	4/12 Sun	4/5 Sun	4/5 Sun	4/13 Mon	4/17 Fri	4/19 Sun	4/21 Tue
MELL SENTOSA	019E	4/18 Sat	4/16 Thu	4/16 Thu	4/14 Tue	4/11 Sat	4/24 Fri	4/20 Mon	4/19 Sun	4/12 Sun	4/12 Sun	4/20 Mon	4/24 Fri	4/26 Sun	4/28 Tue
MELL SINGAPORE	032E	4/25 Sat	4/23 Thu	4/23 Thu	4/21 Tue	4/18 Sat	5/1 Fri	4/27 Mon	4/26 Sun	4/19 Sun	4/19 Sun	4/27 Mon	5/1 Fri	5/3 Sun	5/5 Tue

Inbound from Asia	Voyage No.	ETA Guam	ETA Saipan	ETA Yap	ETA Koror	ETA GenSan	ETA Davao	ETA Cebu	ETA Hongkong	ETA Kaoshiung	ETA Busan	ETA Yokohama	ETA Manila	ETA Singapore
MELL SENOKO	019E	4/4 Sat	4/5 Sun	4/5 Sun	SKIP	4/9 Thu	4/11 Sat	4/12 Sun	4/14 Tue	4/17 Fri	4/18 Sat	4/23 Thu	5/12 Tue	5/10 Sun
MELL SENTOSA	018E	4/11 Sat	4/12 Sun	4/12 Sun	4/14 Tue	4/16 Thu	4/18 Sat	4/19 Sun	4/21 Tue	4/24 Fri	4/25 Sat	4/30 Thu	5/19 Tue	5/17 Sun
MELL SINGAPORE	031E	4/18 Sat	4/19 Sun	4/19 Sun	SKIP	4/23 Thu	4/25 Sat	4/26 Sun	4/28 Tue	5/1 Fri	5/2 Sat	5/7 Thu	5/26 Tue	5/24 Sun
MELL SENOKO	020E	4/25 Sat	4/26 Sun	4/26 Sun	4/28 Tue	4/30 Thu	5/2 Sat	5/3 Sun	5/5 Tue	5/8 Fri	5/9 Sat	5/14 Thu	6/2 Tue	5/31 Sun
MELL SENTOSA	019E	5/2 Sat	5/3 Sun	5/3 Sun	SKIP	5/7 Thu	5/9 Sat	5/10 Sun	5/12 Tue	5/15 Fri	5/16 Sat	5/21 Thu	6/9 Tue	6/7 Sun
MELL SINGAPORE	032E	5/9 Sat	5/10 Sun	5/10 Sun	5/12 Tue	5/14 Thu	5/16 Sat	5/17 Sun	5/19 Tue	5/22 Fri	5/23 Sat	5/28 Thu	6/16 Tue	6/14 Sun

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Group of 20 questions

Thursday's meeting of the Group of 20 in London is supposed to be an opportunity for world leaders to agree on common solutions to the global financial crisis and come up with ways to prevent another one from happening in the future. Yet as the summit approaches, observers seem to be more focused on the past—specifically, on two previous international attempts to reorder troubled markets, one a model of success and the other of failure.

The moment of history the world hopes to avoid repeating is the 1933 London Monetary and Economic Conference, which took place under conditions strikingly similar to those of the present day: Representatives of 66 countries gathered to try to revive international trade and stabilize currencies in the midst of the Depression, while all eyes rested on a newly elected Democratic U.S. president who had replaced a deeply unpopular Republican.

From Europe's point of view, the result was hugely disappointing. President Franklin D. Roosevelt refused to adopt the European consensus on such issues as debt forgiveness and the gold standard, and the lack of a common international approach only encouraged protectionism and isolationism. Some historians even blame the failure of the talks for strengthening the hand of Germany's nationalist chancellor, Adolf Hitler.

Hoping for a very different result in 2009 is British Prime Minister Gordon Brown, whose political future could depend on a successful summit. He has pulled out all the rhetorical stops in talking up the London event, calling for a global "New Deal" of unprecedented cooperation. "The old orthodoxies will not serve us well in the future," Brown said in February. "We've got to think the previously unthinkable; we've got to do what was previously undoable."

What Brown presumably has in mind is something like the 1944 Bretton Woods conference, which laid the foundations for the postwar international financial system. Even as the invasion of Normandy was in full swing, negotiators in New Hampshire set up the International Monetary Fund, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade and the predecessor to the World Bank.

The good news for Brown and others hoping for a breakthrough is that a repeat of 1933 is very unlikely. The bad news is, so is a repeat of 1944.

President Obama has no intention of ruffling international feathers the way Roosevelt did immediately after the Depression. Obama's aims include more stimulus spending by governments of wealthy nations, more efforts to get banks lending again, more aid to poor countries (especially in the form of emergency assistance from the International Monetary Fund) and more regulatory oversight of financial institutions.

Yet even if Brown and Obama are on the same page, many members of the G-20—representing the wealthiest developed and developing nations in the world, together accounting for 85 percent of global economic activity—are not. Led most vocally by German Chancellor Angela Merkel, European leaders are rejecting calls for more stimulus spending and are asking for a global agreement to crack down on hedge funds and excessive executive pay. Brown and Obama say they're pursuing such reforms, but they'd clearly prefer to do it within their own national regulatory systems than through international institutions.

Decades of globalization have left countries so interconnected that a repeat of the mistakes of the early 1930s is inconceivable.

See GROUP on Next Page



How can I help?

The only way to take control of your life, raise your standard of living and move beyond merely surviving is to create your own unique product or service that you offer to increasing numbers of people in exchange for the things of value that you desire. This simple formula applies to countries as well as people. A self-sufficient economy has its own products or services of value to export to the world. Similarly, a self-sufficient individual has something of value to exchange in the global marketplace. That thing of value is based on your natural talent, skill, or interest—in other words, your passion!

Perhaps it's still a virtue
or maybe it's a curse
I'm often found dispensing aid
as if I was a nurse

You weary? Let me help you
You lost? Then take this road
Confused? Think on this option
You weak? Give me your load

It happens without pretense
No interest in applause
Just feels like it's the thing to do
no reason, just because

But why are some more giving
while some seem not to care?
What motive lies behind the actions
Selfishness or fear?

Perhaps it's for approval
Perhaps to gain control
Perhaps because the act of giving
fills the giver's soul

But people do their best
to get through life while they are here
You'll notice different ways they cope
Just know their heart's still there

But keep YOUR heart wide open
and know when you're in doubt:
The time spent helping others
is what life is all about!

Once, at a social gathering, I had a chance to discuss some interesting topics with several of the guests. During the course of a chat with one individual in particular, I noticed two separate instances in which he showed himself to be particularly adept at noticing the needs of others in the immediate area, and offering his help to make things easier for them. (And he wasn't the host!) He would notice, for instance, someone looking for the bathroom, and volunteer to give them directions. He might spot the telltale signs of someone wanting to discard their paper cup, and point them to the trash can. That got us into a discussion of the prevalence (and absence) of that unique trait of helpfulness among the general population.

Why are some people more helpful than others? Why will some hold a door open for you while others will not? Why will some go out of their way to offer aid and assistance while it seems others

THE SAIPANPRENEUR PROJECT

Creating economic success for the CNMI

By WALT F.J. GOODRIDGE

Special to the Saipan Tribune



Send article suggestions, entrepreneur nominations and feedback about this article to walt@passionprofit.com.

couldn't care less. There are undoubtedly a million different reasons. Perhaps this caretaker way of being is a coping strategy developed early in life by a child seeking approval and a parent's love for being Mommy or Daddy's "little helper." Perhaps those who aren't as helpful are avoiding the pain of being hurt or being taken for granted. Perhaps service is considered weakness. Who knows?

Of course, our discussion could have lasted forever, so it was left unresolved with our agreement that because there are, in fact, so many factors that govern an individual's behavior at any given time, we shouldn't expect everyone to be on the same page as we are at all times. And don't get upset at others for not being as giving and as helpful as you'd like the world to be. Most importantly, don't let *their* way of behaving jade *you* to the virtues and benefits of giving.

Here are a few thoughts from around the world.

"There is no happiness in having or in getting, but only in giving." —Canadian poet Henry Drummond,

"They who give have all things; they who withhold have nothing." —Hindu proverb

"The wise man does not lay up his own treasures. The more he gives to others, the more he has for his own." —Chinese, Taoist philosopher Lao Tzu

"One kind word can warm three winter months." —Japanese proverb

"To give without any reward, or any notice, has a special quality of its own." —American author Anne Morrow Lindbergh

■ ■ ■

Note: Ever wanted to direct your friends and family to a set of websites that said good things about Saipan? Do what I do: send them to www.bestofsaipan.com!

Note: Fans and followers of *Chicken Feathers and Garlic Skin: Diary of a Chinese Garment Factory Girl on Saipan* may now find copies at Bookseller Bookstore in the Joeten Plaza in Susupe or on Amazon.com. Hurry, there's a limited supply!

Note: For more tips on overcoming your fears, acting on your ideas, changing the game, and creating a passion-centered lifestyle, visit www.passionprofit.com!

■ ■ ■

Until next week, remember, success is a journey, not a destination!

Walt F.J. Goodridge is author of 12 books including *Turn Your Passion Into Profit*. Walt offers coaching and workshops to help people pursue and profit from their passions. Originally from the island of Jamaica, Walt has grown several successful businesses in the US, and now makes his home here in Saipan. To learn more about the Saipanpreneur Project and Walt's philosophy and formula visit www.saipanpreneur.com and www.passionprofit.com.

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Letter to the Editor

No ‘butts’ about it

Kudos to Rep. Justo Quitugua for sponsoring House Bill 16-47, or the Smoke Free Air Act of 2008. You have done the right thing and I thank you for thinking about the CNMI’s health and welfare first and foremost, most especially our children, who are often subjected to secondhand smoke.

The CNMI Senate is debating this bill right now, as expected. Here’s what Sen. Crisostimo had to say: “Outlawing smoking will hurt the CNMI. I cannot understand why you would go to a club and not be able to smoke. Banning this will not just hurt the CNMI in the long run. We really cannot afford this. I am not a smoker but I don’t mind having a smoking area.”

Forgive me, senator, but do you honestly believe tourists will decide not to go to Saipan because we don’t allow smoking in restaurants? Have you been to Tony Roma’s lately? It is often packed with Japanese tourists. And when the Japanese tourists want to smoke, they simply go outside and smoke. I recommend you speak to the management of Tony Roma’s and ask them if their business has suffered because of their smoking ban. Their answer will surprise you!

Senator, with all due respect, I recommend you take a walk with me down the Paseo de Scaryanas and its side streets. Perhaps then will you begin to understand the real culprits of why tourists aren’t returning to our islands. Overflowing trash cans, trash scattered around the streets, weeds and tangan tangan growing taller than the trees, makeshift dumping grounds, abandoned or dilapidated buildings, and prostitutes accosting tourists at night might have more of a negative impact on tourism than banning smoking in restaurants, wouldn’t you agree?

Senator, do you know how much money is spent on treating tobacco-related diseases and illnesses every single year in the CNMI?

Tolai Tradision

Guaha dos puntan tano uma`afana kase kuatro miyas apattao. Un`tadoñg tase gi entalo, piligrosu piot gi finatton mattiempu. Un`punta tano`lugat tradision antigu, i otro punta lugat modetnu na linala`Chamorro yan Karolinas.

Gaige gi entalo` dos puntan tano un` tolai ni mafananaan` Attikulo Dose.

Este na tolai solu sosobra na pisun tradision yan kustumbren natibu ni debi ta pokate yan famaguonta. Este na tolai`nai man-libre hit fumama hafa muna likidu pareho ha Chamorro yan Karolinas guine gi O`Perlas iya Pasifiko.

Obligasionta yan responsablidatta komo mañaina umusa este na tolai para tafanague famaguonta man-ginen mano hit mage. Kulan un`guihan ni gai ilu, tiyan yan dadalag. I dadalag i tradisionta deste antes, i tiyan i presente, i ilu pot futurata`nai ta a`atan mona todos man-antao na pinetsige para adelanton taotaota.

Guaha dañkulo sustansiaña i mapetsisige gi prinisetban Attikulo Dose gi papa`Konstitusion iya Marianas. Deste antes, patte gi linala`

Thank you

The Inetnon Æmot Natibu/Ammwelil Safeyal Faluwasch extends a *Dångkulu na si Yu`us Ma`åse* and *Olomway* to Gov. Benigno R. Fitial for signing Saipan Local Law 16-7 which includes an appropriation from the Legislature for part of the printing cost for the *Directory of Traditional Healers and Medicinal Plants in the CNMI*. The IÃN/ASF also extends a *Dångkulu na si Yu`us Ma`åse* and *Olomway* to the Legislature, and especially to Sen. Maria Frica T. Pangelinan and Reps. Ray Tebuteb and Justo Quitugua who played a major role in securing funds for the printing of the *Directory*. The IÃN/ASF also extends a *Dångkulu na si Yu`us Ma`åse* and *Olomway* to the Marianas Public Land Trust for having funds for this important indigenous project.

What makes a good student? A good lawmaker?

As parents we send our kids off to school with the hope that they will excel in their studies. We have one expectation and that is to see that they have good report cards! They go to school on time, volunteer for all extra-curricular activities like Junior Police Officers or stay after school to clean up in the classrooms. They help in the office whenever they can and they even become messengers on campus. They may have done everything under the sun on campus but when they fail to pass their tests, are they still good students? No! They may have demonstrated what is morally right but, being students, failure to pass tests proves that they are academically behind. Aca-

Did you know that even non-smokers are affected by secondhand smoke? Do you honestly believe that non-smoking sections in restaurants do not still smell and inhale secondhand smoke?

Here are some things to consider, since you talk about how HB 16-47 will hurt tourism:

■ In New York: Since the implementation of a smoking ban in New York City in March 2003, several studies have shown no negative economic impact. The 2004 Zagat New York City Restaurant Survey of nearly 30,000 restaurant patrons showed that 23 percent were eating out more often because of the smoking bylaw. A one-year review of business tax receipts from bars and restaurants done by the City showed an increase of 8.7 per cent over 2003, and an employment increase of 2,800 during this period.

■ In California: After introducing a smoking ban in restaurants (1995) and bars (1998), tax revenue data found that revenues from both restaurants and bars increased after the legislation was put in place.

■ In Ottawa: A 2003 report indicated no negative impact on Ottawa restaurants and bars, after the city implemented a 100 percent smoke-free workplace and public places by law, with no designated smoking rooms in 2001.

No “butts” about it: A 2005 review of Canadian, U.S., and other international jurisdictions by Health Canada confirms that “evidence from the best quality studies consistently demonstrates that smoke-free legislation does not have a negative impact on the sales, revenues, profits and employment of restaurants, bars, hotels, and gaming facilities over the long term. The evidence presented here indicates that smoke-free legislation does not adversely affect the hospitality industry.”

natibu i tano yan tase gi oriyata sa este solu rekueddon guelu yan guela. Motmut hinimiddle linala taotao-ta ginen fanguahuan yan halom tasen rubentasion, man-magof hit gi hafa guinahata. Man-humiddle gi todo kinalamtentia ya tat tit a akude prohimita gi oran nesesisdat. Estague i sustansiaña i pisun tradision yan kutturan natibu! Este solu satbasionta!

Ginen i tano yan tase`nai ta sosoda`probision nesesisdat familia. Ginen i kinisecha siha`nai man-a`afaburese hit. Este na tradision natibu i mas sumimiento dinaña Chamorro yan Karolinas. Este na eksisio naturat gi halom hita mismo ni natibu. Este na eksisio i muna ffitme pogse`sentidu na inaguaiya yan dinaña gi entalota.

I ta fufana`na asunto didog yan sentidu. I tradision yan kutturan tano`ta gaige lamayot patte na mau`udai silensio gi halom Attikulo Dose. Estague solu tolai`nai gaige pudet natibu u-mabiba hafa tradisiona yan kutturaña. Maila ta pañgon ya ta abiba amino i siña este na probision konstitusion iya Marianas.

Komprendiyon i man-mafafahma siha na asunto pot disbintahan Attikulo Dose. Lao deste trentai-tres años antes man-halom siha adelanto

The *Directory of Traditional Healers and Medicinal Plants in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands* is published by the Inetnon Æmot Natibu/Ammwelil Safeyal Faluwasch and will be printed in April. It contains articles on at least 44 healers on Rota, Tinian, and Saipan. It also contains pictures of more than 100 medicinal plants in the CNMI. This *Directory* is the first of its kind in the CNMI and in it the healers were given the opportunity to share their knowledge and experiences. The *Directory* is written in the three official languages of the CNMI—Carolinian, Chamorro, and English.

With the *Directory*, the IÃN/ASF intends to 1) advocate, recognize, and support traditional medicine and traditional healers who

demic failure is unacceptable and then they are retained in the same level until they show improvement. It will be great if my kids can excel academically and simultaneously swim with the flow!

What about our lawmakers? We have one expectation of our elected lawmakers and that is to pass significant bills. What makes a good lawmaker? Is it the one who is a good JPO, always cleans the chamber, runs around as messengers but can never muster enough camaraderie to pass a bill on behalf of the precinct from which he/she has been elected to represent and pass bills for? The one who always barks but fails to get an approval on a bill? As a student is

to trade policy, because a significant trade war would be universally catastrophic. At the same time, it’s unlikely that Brown’s hopes of a global New Deal could be realized on Thursday; with such countries as China, Brazil, Saudi Arabia and Germany bringing wildly different interests and priorities to the bargain-

Senate President Pete P. Reyes, R-Saipan, said the health dangers associated with smoking are probably far more dangerous than economic concerns. He is absolutely right, and I thank him for stating that.

HB 16-47 is not banning smoking on our islands. It is simply stating where you can and cannot smoke. Let’s remember that non-smokers have rights too, most especially children who suck in secondhand smoke every single time they go to restaurants and public areas that allow smoking.

I remember back in 1990, when I worked as a teller in a bank, it was not only customers who were allowed to smoke, but so were the tellers. I want you to imagine going in to a bank today and having a teller blowing smoke in your face while handing you your money. Wouldn’t you be shocked? That’s a sign of how times are a changin’ and some of the progress we have made over the years. While we have made progress, there is still room for improvement.

HB 16-47 is a good bill, and whether you are a smoker or a non-smoker, you should wholeheartedly support it. The health and the welfare of our community should come first. Let’s not forget that Japan has enacted strict anti-smoking laws too, and so has most progressive countries around the world. What is stopping the CNMI from joining the world community and doing something that benefits the health of our people?

If you haven’t already, I urge you to call or write your representatives and senators and urge them to support the Smoke Free Air Act of 2008. It is a good law and one that is long overdue.

Ed Propst
Dandan, Saipan

ya ti man-inaminasa nu este na probision konstitusion. Seriosu na fatsu i para ta fañañague famaguonta pot interes kometsiante ya ta malefan ñaihon interes niha para i man-mamamaila siha na tiempo.

Haf`baliña mapuno este na attikulo`nai uttimoiña ta sosoda`taotao-ta siha mañasaga gi kanton tase, halom tano sino fina rinton sa taya`esta tano`niha para fan liheñg familia? Pot fabot muña masede na para hita mismo ta displanta taotao-ta siha.

Presetbasion tradision yan kutturan natibu gaige na motmut proteksion gi papa`Attikulo Dose. Ta abiba presetbasion este na probision gi papa`i konstitusion tano`ta. Sede famaguonta mañaonao gi ma-atisan yan mana fitmen adelanton tradision yan kustumbre tano`. Petmanente este esta`i finatai niha. Tafan daña gi hilo fitme na pisun tradision tano ya ta simiento i dos haligen natibu para i famaguonta siha. Protehe Attikulo Dose! Si Yuus Maase`!

John S. DelRosario Jr.
As Gonno, Saipan

are not normally publicly recognized, 2) help protect habitats of medicinal plants, and 3) document cultural traditions.

The awareness of native medicine is especially important today for the younger generation to know of its value and its role in the indigenous cultures of the Carolinians and the Chamorros. When we recognize who we are, what we are, and respect and honor the cultural values that we have, this is very healthy. Native medicine works and it is economical as well, considering the high cost of hospital treatments in the world today.

Manny F. Borja
Project Director

to pass their tests, so are you as lawmakers—to pass bills and learn to swim with the flow. If you couldn’t pass bills, then you cannot make laws, therefore you don’t have any business being a lawmaker. Same with students—if you can’t pass tests, you are better off being a farmer. Boy, it will be great to see a former lawmaker wannabe become a productive farmer, if he/she couldn’t be a productive (bill passer) lawmaker.

Alexandro Sablan
Dandan, Saipan

ing table, the summit will probably generate a modest agreement that could help prevent things from getting worse, even if it does little to make them better.

GROUP






From Page 10

able—the concept of mutually assured destruction now applies

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

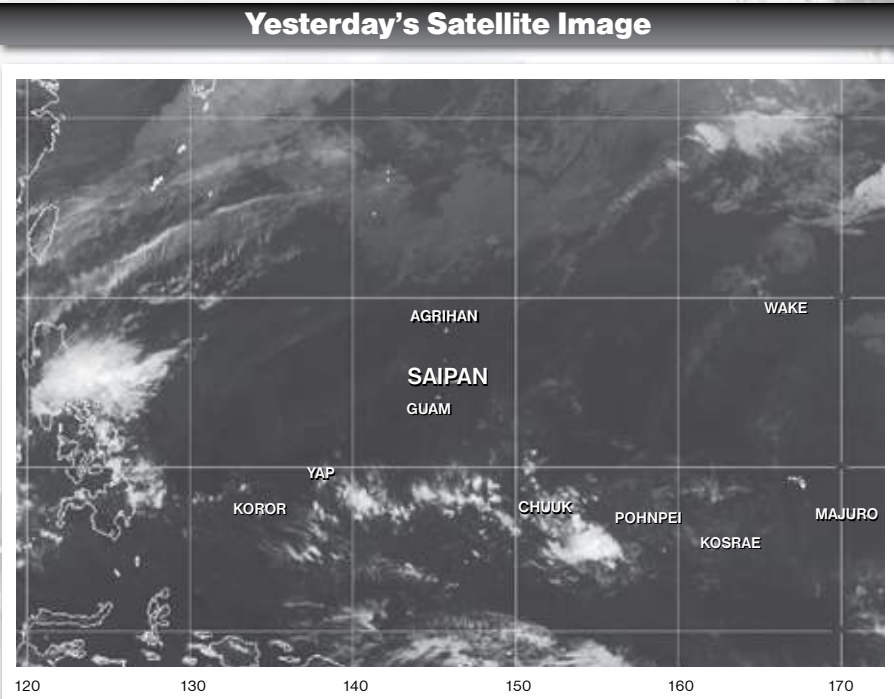
5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
				
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°

Micronesia		
Guam and Rota	Sunny	▲85 ▼75
Palau	Rain	▲87 ▼76
Yap	Rain	▲85 ▼77
Chuuk	Rain	▲88 ▼79
Pohnpei	Showers	▲87 ▼74
Kosrae	Showers	▲87 ▼79
Majuro	Sunny	▲85 ▼75

Around The Globe		
Auckland	Mostly Cloudy	▲63 ▼48
Beijing	Sunny	▲61 ▼37
Hong Kong	Cloudy	▲75 ▼64
Honolulu	Cloudy	▲77 ▼70
London	Mostly Sunny	▲63 ▼43
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	▲74 ▼54
Manila	Showers	▲82 ▼75
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	▲82 ▼64
Miami	Partly Sunny	▲88 ▼73
New York	Showers	▲53 ▼45
Osaka	Rain	▲50 ▼40
Paris	Partly Sunny	▲60 ▼43
Pusan	Rain/Snow	▲55 ▼37
Rome	Rain	▲71 ▼51
Salem	Showers	▲52 ▼42
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	▲67 ▼51
Seoul	Partly Sunny	▲54 ▼34
Tokyo	Rain	▲55 ▼46
Washington, DC	Partly Sunny	▲55 ▼46

Tides		
Saipan Harbor		
12:26 PM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
5:31 AM Today	Low Tide:	1.3 Feet
10:27 AM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
6:15 PM Today	Low Tide:	0.3 Feet



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, MARCH 31, 2009
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front enters the discussion area from 25N155E to extend southwestward to 22N141E. Scattered light showers are found within 250 miles northwest of the cold front. Convergent low-level winds are generating scattered showers between 7N and 9N from 141E to 148E between Yap and Chuuk, and south of Guam. A weak surface trough running from 2N156E to 8N152E enhanced by upper-level divergence is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms within 75 miles of the trough axis. This trough is just east of Chuuk.

Sunrise/Sunset			Moonrise/Moonset		
Today	6:13 AM	6:29 PM	Today	10:26 AM	
Thursday	6:12 AM	6:30 PM	Thursday	11:29 AM	12:01 AM
Friday	6:11 AM	6:30 PM	Friday	12:32 PM	12:59 AM
Saturday	6:11 AM	6:30 PM	Saturday	1:34 PM	1:53 AM
Sunday	6:10 AM	6:30 PM	Sunday	2:33 PM	2:41 AM

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Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
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Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

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Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

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- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
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DEPARTURES			ARRIVALS		
Saipan-Rota			Rota-Saipan		
CO9597	11:50am	12:25pm 1,7	CO 9598	3:25am	4:00am 5,6
Saipan-Guam			Guam-Saipan		
CO9317	5:00am	5:50am Daily	CO 9316	2:30am	3:20am 1,2,3,4,7
CO9313	8:30am	9:20am Daily	CO9598	2:30am	4:00am 5,6 via Rota
CO9597	11:50am	1:20pm 1,7 via Rota	CO9596	7:00am	7:50am Daily
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm 2,3,4,5,6	CO9600	10:20am	11:10am Daily
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm Daily	CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm Daily	CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm Daily	CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm Daily
Saipan-Narita			Narita-Saipan		
NW 099	5:00am	7:35am Daily	NW 076	10:15am	2:40pm Daily
NW 078	8:20am	1:30pm 2,3,4,5,6,7	NW 077	6:25pm	1:20am+1 2,3,4,5,6,7
NW 075	4:55pm	7:30pm Daily	NW 100	8:45pm	1:10am+1 Daily
Guam-Narita			Narita-Guam		
NW 73	4:10pm	7:00pm Daily	NW 74	9:45am	2:20pm Daily
NW 81	3:55pm	6:55pm Daily	NW 82	10:30am	3:10pm Daily
Saipan-Osaka			Osaka-Saipan		
OZ 119	4:00am	6:40am 1,4,6	OZ 120	9:50pm	2:20am+1 3,5,7
Guam-Osaka			Osaka-Guam		
NW 79	4:45pm	7:35pm Daily	NW 80	10:30am	3:00pm Daily
Saipan-Nagoya			Nagoya-Saipan		
NW 078	8:20am	11:05am Daily	NW 077	9:00pm	1:20am+1 Daily
Guam-Nagoya			Nagoya-Guam		
NW 23	4:30pm	7:20pm Daily	NW 24	10:00am	2:30pm Daily
Saipan-Incheon			Incheon-Saipan		
OZ 604	2:10am	6:00am 1	OZ 605	9:00am	2:20pm Daily
OZ 604	2:40am	6:30am 2,3,4,5,6,7	OZ 603	7:40pm	1:00am+1 7
OZ 119	4:00am	11:25am 1,4,6 via Osaka	OZ 120	7:10pm	2:20am+1 3,5,7
OZ 606	3:20pm	7:00pm Daily	OZ 603	8:10pm	1:30am+1 1,2,3,4,5,6
Saipan-Busan			Busan-Saipan		
OZ 608	3:20am	6:50am 1,4,5,7	OZ 607	9:00pm	2:10am+1 3,4,6,7
Saipan-Shanghai			Shanghai-Saipan		
FM 844	2:50am	5:40am 2,6	FM 843	7:15pm	1:50am+1 1,5
Rota-Guam			Guam-Rota		
CO 9597	12:50pm	1:20pm 1,7	CO 9598	2:30am	3:00am 5,6
Guam-Palau			Palau-Guam		
CO 953	7:40pm	8:40pm 1,7	CO 954	2:30am	5:25am 1,2
CO 893	5:50pm	6:50pm 3,5	CO 892	2:35am	5:30am 4,6
Palau-Manila			Manila-Palau		
CO 893	7:35pm	9:10pm 3,5	CO 892	10:10pm	1:50am+1 3,5
Guam-Manila			Manila-Guam		
CO 893	5:50pm	9:10pm 3,5 via Koror	CO 892	10:10pm	5:30am+1 3,5 via Koror
CO 933	8:00pm	9:40pm Daily	CO 934	11:10pm	4:05am+1 Daily
PR 111	6:00am	7:50am 1,2,4,6,7	PR 110	10:10pm	4:00am+1 1,3,5,6,7
Nagoya-Manila			Manila-Nagoya		
NW 71	8:40pm	11:55pm Daily	NW 72	6:30am	11:05am Daily
Incheon-Hongkong			Hongkong-Incheon		
OZ 721	9:20am	12:00pm Daily	OZ 724	12:30am	4:50am Daily
OZ 723	7:45pm	10:35pm Daily	OZ 7183	12:45am	5:05am 1,4,6
OZ 7173	8:00pm	10:50pm 5,7	OZ 722	1:30pm	5:45pm Daily
Narita-Manila			Manila-Narita		
NW 1	7:00pm	10:55pm Daily	NW 2	7:45am	12:40pm Daily

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily	FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily	FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily	FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily	Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
Guam-Rota				FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily	FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily	FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily	FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily	FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily	FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily	FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily	FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily	FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily				
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily				



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com



HANNAM MARKET

288-9290/3639

KAGMAN MARKET

256-4989

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April Special Sale

APRIL 01-10, 2009

WE ACCEPT FOOD STAMPS

**Clothing
Special**



\$1-\$3

MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED



SELECTED ITEMS ARE LIMITED PER CUSTOMER

Quarter Leg Chicken Limit 2 Case SALE \$16.99 22 lbs. SALE \$19.99 33 lbs.	Whole Young Chicken Limit 1 SALE \$33.99 /case	Pork Spareribs BBQ or Adobo Cut SALE \$15.49 20 lbs. Limit 2	Baby Ribs SALE \$12.99 10 lbs. Limit 2	Gusto Smoked SALE \$1.99 /lb.	Beef Back Ribs Limit 2 SALE \$24.99 /20 lbs.
Lotus Brand Rice SALE \$23.99 50 lbs.	Diamond G Calrose Rice Limit 1 SALE \$32.99 50 lbs.	Royal Thai Lady Rice Limit 1 SALE \$27.99 50 lbs.	Salad Oil 5 Gallon Limit 1 SALE \$24.99	Milk Fish SALE \$1.19 /lb. SALE \$54.99 /case	Tilapia 99¢ /lb. SALE \$37.99 /case
Ichiban SALE \$7.99 Limit 1 Case Original	Spam All Flavors SALE \$1.99 /each Limit 6 pcs.	Mackerel Pike & Horse Mackerel 22 lbs. SALE \$20.99 /case	Ritz Soda All Flavor SALE \$10.99 /case Limit 1 Case	Coke Warm only SALE \$12.99 /case Limit 1 Case	HITE Beer SALE \$13.99 /case Limit 1 Case

GROCERY ITEMS

Hormel Chili (No Beans) SALE \$1.59 Limit 12	Hormel Corned Beef Hash SALE \$1.79 Limit 12	Master A1 Tuna SALE 89¢ Limit 6	Sunflower Mackerel SALE \$1.49	Coco Tuna SALE 99¢ Limit 6	Coco Mackerel SALE \$1.29 /each	Ligo Sardines SALE 3 for \$1.00 Limit 12
Armour Vienna Sausage SALE 59¢ /each	Ox & Plam Corned Beef SALE \$2.29 /each Limit 12	Del Monte Kernel Corn SALE 69¢	Del Monte Fruit Cocktail SALE \$3.99	Del Monte Spaghetti Sauce SALE \$1.29 All Flavors	Hosen Fruit Cocktail SALE \$3.95	Black Label Luncheon Meat SALE \$1.39 Limit 12
Lemon Powder SALE \$4.95	Golden State Vinegar SALE \$2.99	Sugar SALE \$1.59 /kg.	Kikkoman Limit 1 Cs. (6 lbs) SALE \$3.79 1.6 lb.	Fresco Cooking Oil SALE \$7.99	Argo Cornstarch SALE 79¢	Excellent Rice Stick 80 oz. SALE 99¢
Pasta Select SALE 99¢	Dragon Brand Vegetable Oil SALE 7.99 1 Gal.	Seoksu Water 500 ml. SALE \$5.99 /case	Sunkist All Flavors SALE \$5.95 /case	Wilkins Water 4,000 ml. SALE \$1.99 /ea	Lipton Ice Tea 38 qrt. SALE \$6.99	Nestea 28 qts. SALE \$5.99
Morton Salt SALE 69¢	Vlasic Dill Pickles SALE \$6.99 Whole SALE \$5.95 Whole	Ajinomoto 1 lb. SALE 99¢	Tang 22 quarts SALE \$5.99	Jin Korean Soy Sauce 1.8 Ltr. SALE \$2.99	Kimchee Base 450 G. SALE \$4.95	Folgers Classic Roast 39 oz. SALE \$7.99
						Dinty Moore Stew (Beef, Chicken and Meat Ball) SALE \$1.49 /15 oz.

NON-FOOD

Bounty Basic 8 Rolls SALE \$7.95	Toilet Tissue 10 Rolls SALE \$3.95	Soft & Gentle 24 Rolls SALE \$8.99	Jubilee Tissue 24 Rolls SALE \$8.99	Korean Facial Tissue 3 Packs SALE \$4.50	Cottonelle Tissue 12 Rolls SALE \$3.99
Luv's Diapers Big Box All Sizes SALE \$16.95	Gain Liquid Detergent SALE \$4.99	Suavitel 850 ml. SALE \$1.59	Adult Diapers SALE \$7.95	Joy Dishwashing Liquid 90 oz. SALE \$5.99	Safeguard Bar Soap SALE 59¢ /each
	Clorox 96 oz. SALE \$2.99	Suave Shampoo & Conditioner 15 oz. 2 for \$2.50	White Rain Shampoo & Conditioner 590 ml. 2 for \$2.95	Axxion Foam Plates 125 ct. SALE \$6.95	Butane Gas SALE \$21.99 /canister 2

FROZEN FOOD

Chopped Ham SALE \$9.99 /5 lbs. SALE \$17.99 /10 lbs.	Pork Riblets SALE \$10.99 /cs.	Beef Rib Finger SALE \$2.99 /lb.	Ground Pork SALE \$17.99 /10 lbs.	Ground Beef SALE \$15.99 /10 lbs.	Pork Butt Slab Only SALE \$1.79 /lb.
Chamorro Sausage SALE \$3.99 /pkg.	Miller Sausage SALE \$14.99 /pkg.	Hoffy Portuguese Sausage SALE \$1.99 /pkg.	Turkey Tail SALE \$17.99 /cs.	Smoked Salmon Collar SALE \$1.99 /lbs.	Cut Crab SALE \$5.95 /box
Family Bag Special Pork Hocks \$8.95 Pork Belly \$10.95 Pork Adobo \$9.95 Pork Spareribs \$6.95 Pork Chops \$13.95 Beef Stew \$13.95 Beef Backribs \$8.95 Beef Shortribs \$15.95 Stewing Chicken \$5.95 Quarter Leg s \$5.95					
				Chicken Winggets SALE \$9.99 /5 lbs.	Bar S Bacon SALE \$2.49 /pkg.
				Milk Fish Belly SALE \$1.49 /pkg.	Bar S Hot Links SALE \$1.99 /4 pcs.
				Bar S Jumbo Franks SALE \$1.05 /pkg.	Dragon Raw Headon White Shrimp 16/20 SALE \$3.99 /1lb.
				Green Mussels SALE \$4.99 /5 lbs.	Vega Shrimp SALE \$4.99 /lb.

PRODUCE

Potato (Jumbo) SALE 79¢ /lb.	Orange SALE 89¢ /lb.	Gala/Fiji Apple SALE \$3.99 /pkg.	Banana SALE 99¢ /lb.
Red Onion SALE 99¢ /lb.	Onion SALE 59¢ /lb.	Garlic SALE 89¢ /pack-4 pcs.	U.S. Eggs Extra Large SALE \$1.99 /doz.

EVERYDAY LOW PRICE • WHILE SUPPLIES LAST • PRICES CHANGES WITHOUT NOTICE

Island Snapshots



COVENANT RALLY

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial addresses the crowd of well over a thousand as his running mate, Finance Secretary Eloy Inos, right, and their families look on during the Covenant Party's kickoff rally at the Civic Center in Susupe Saturday.



Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, right, addresses the crowd of well over a thousand during the Covenant Party's kickoff rally at the Civic Center in Susupe Friday. Fitial's running mate, Finance Secretary Eloy Inos (not shown in photo), was officially introduced at the rally.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday greetings go out to Ellery S. Cruz, left, aka "111 Ghost Rider," who is celebrating his birthday today, April 1, 2009. Pictured with the birthday celebrant are Melvin P. Cepeda, center, and Chris Alepuyo. Many blessings from the family.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to Peter Camacho, a third grader from Grace Christian Academy. He won gold in Numbers at the Mathcourt Regional Competition held on March 21, 2009.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



BOOK LAUNCHING

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Lawyer Janet King and Sen. Maria Frica Pangelinan listen to speakers during the launching of the book *Estoria-Hu* at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe on Monday. The book, written by the late Juan Aguon Sanchez and published 21 years after the author's death, is the third title published by the NMI Humanities Council under its Micronesian Authors Initiative established in 2004.



NMI Humanities Council chair Dr. Debra T. Cabrera, second left, presents a plaque of appreciation to some of the children of the late author, Juan Aguon Sanchez, during Monday's book launching at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe. In photo are, from left, Maria S. Sablan, Cabrera, Fernando DLG. Sanchez, Bitilia DLG. Sanchez, Zita DLG. Sanchez, and Jesus DLG. Sanchez.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

HONOR SOCIETY

Thirty-five Oleai Elementary School students pose for a picture after being inducted as new members of the National Elementary Honor Society in a ceremony held at the Pacific Islands Club on Saturday, March 21, 2009. Members were selected by the chapter's faculty council for meeting high standards of academic excellence and responsibility. The Oleai Elementary School Chapter has been established since August 2008.



SCIENCE FAIR

Twelve-year-old Kayla Sasaki, a sixth grader at Grace Christian Academy on Navy Hill, reads the explanation on one of the entries to the school's Science Fair last week. The "snowflake in drink" experiment is all about the "super cooling" effect, which is the process of lowering the temperature of a liquid or a gas below its freezing point without it becoming a solid.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Business

Obama asserts control over the auto industry

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama asserted unprecedented government control over the auto industry Monday, bluntly rejecting turnaround plans by General Motors Corp. and Chrysler LLC, demanding fresh concessions for long-term federal aid and raising the possibility of quick bankruptcy for either ailing auto giant.

Obama took the extraordinary step of announcing the government will back new car warranties issued by both GM and Chrysler, an attempt to reassure consumers their U.S.-made purchases will be protected even if the companies don't survive.

"I am absolutely committed to working with Congress and the auto companies to meet one goal: The United States of America will lead the world in

building the next generation of clean cars," Obama said in his first extended remarks on the industry since taking office nearly 10 weeks ago. And yet, he added, "our auto industry is not moving in the right direction fast enough to succeed."

Obama, flanked by several administration officials at the White House, announced a short-term infusion of cash for the firms, and said it could be the last for one or both.

Chrysler, judged by the administration as too small to survive, got 30 days' worth of funds to complete a partnership with Fiat SpA, the Italian manufacturer, or some other automaker.

GM got assurances of 60 days' worth of federal financing to try and revise its turnaround plan under new management with heavy government participation. That would involve con-

cessions from its union workers and bondholders. The administration engineered the ouster of longtime CEO Rick Wagoner over the weekend, an indication of its deep involvement in an industry that once stood as a symbol of American capitalism.

Obama's announcement underscored the extent to which automakers have been added to the list of large corporations now operating under a level of government control that seemed unthinkable less than a year ago. Since last fall, the Bush and Obama administrations, often acting in concert with the Federal Reserve, have engineered the takeover of housing titans Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, seized a large stake in several banks and installed a new CEO at bailed-out insurance giant American International Group.

FDA says to avoid pistachios amid salmonella scare

FRESNO, Calif. (AP)—Federal food safety officials warned Monday that consumers should stop eating all foods containing pistachios while they figure out the source of a possible salmonella contamination.

Still reeling from the national salmonella outbreak in peanuts, the Food and Drug Administration said central California-based Setton Pistachio of Terra Bella Inc., the nation's second-largest

pistachio processor, was voluntarily recalling a portion of the roasted nuts it has been shipping since last fall. A Setton spokeswoman said that amounts to more than 2 million pounds of nuts.

"Our advice to consumers is that they avoid eating pistachio products, and that they hold onto those products," said Dr. David Acheson, assistant commissioner for food safety. "The number of products that are

going to be recalled over the coming days will grow, simply because these pistachio nuts have then been repackaged into consumer-level containers."

Two people called the FDA complaining of gastrointestinal illness that could be associated with the nuts, but the link hasn't been confirmed, Acheson said. Still, the plant decided to shut down late last week, officials said.

American Airlines to expand in-flight Web access

DALLAS (AP)—American Airlines plans to expand Internet access to about half its fleet of aircraft over the next two years as it attempts to raise revenue and improve customer service.

The company said Tuesday it will install flying Wi-Fi hot spots on about 300 planes used in the continental U.S. and charge up to \$12.95 for browsing the Web, sending e-mail or connecting

with corporate VPN sites.

American has been testing in-flight Internet service for several months on 15 planes. The airline declined to give figures on usage during the test, but an American technology executive called the response positive.

"American Airlines is a very financially driven airline," said the executive, Doug Backelin. "We are especially

careful in how we're spending, but this is a good strategic investment, something our customers will value."

AMR Corp.'s American is one of several U.S. carriers getting into Internet service. Delta Air Lines Inc., the world's largest airline operator, plans a quicker rollout, from about 80 planes currently to more than 300 late this year and more than 500 by the end of 2010.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Madoff gets trading card in set featuring scammers

NEW YORK (AP)—Now you can trade your two Ponzis for a Madoff (MAY'-dawf). The Topps Co. Inc. says jailed Wall Street financier Bernard Madoff will be featured this summer in a set of trading cards dubbed the "world's biggest hoaxes, hoodwinks and bamboozles." The New York-based marketer of entertainment products says the cards show scoundrels and villains such as Enron, D.B. Cooper and Charles Ponzi. Ponzi was a notorious swindler who ran

what is now known as a Ponzi scheme—the kind Madoff pulled off for years until authorities busted him. Madoff pleaded guilty this month to 11 felony counts, including securities fraud and perjury. His scam cost investors billions of dollars. The 70-year-old former Nasdaq chairman could get up to 150 years in prison when he's sentenced in June.

New GM CEO says bankruptcy still an option

DETROIT (AP)—General Motors Corp.'s new chief executive said Monday there's a

greater risk that the company will have to reorganize through bankruptcy, because of greater demands from the Obama administration to get debt off its balance sheet. Fritz Henderson told reporters on a conference call that the company would still prefer to restructure outside of court, but the various support mechanisms Obama outlined Monday would provide a better cushion for the company to reorganize under a court-order bankruptcy if necessary. "We were encouraged, we talked to the auto task force about ultimately bringing the consumer back in the game," he said.

Nation



Virgil McKay stands on the sandbag dike that protects his home as the Red River continues to rise Monday, March 30, 2009, in Hendrum, Minn. AP

Winter storm latest test for Fargo's levees

FARGO, N.D. (AP)—A blizzard battered North Dakota on Monday, threatening to create wind-whipped waves that could lash the patchwork levee system that has shielded much of Fargo from the swollen Red River. Engineers scrambled to shore up the dikes in hopes of averting the latest potential disaster nature has inflicted on this beleaguered city.

The winter storm was expected to bring up to a foot of snow and 30 mph winds that could weaken the levees with big waves. Officials acknowledged that no one knows

whether the levees will withstand the punishment.

"The difficulty with an epic flood is nobody has been through it before," city Commissioner Tim Mahoney said. "You can't ask someone, 'Hey, what's going to happen next?'"

The Red River dropped to 38.96 feet Monday, nearly 2 feet below its peak but nearly 21 feet above flood stage. City officials have said they would breathe easier when the river falls to 36 or 37 feet or lower.

Authorities were not especially worried about the snowfall because flood levels will have

dropped by the time it melts. But forecasters have warned all along that the river could still rise again. They believe the river could drop 2 more feet in the coming days before inching upward again.

Some residents in the Fargo area said that Monday's snowstorm amounted to a kick in the gut after a grueling week of filling sandbags and fortifying their homes against flooding, which was caused by heavier-than-average winter snows, combined with spring rains and an early freeze last fall that locked a lot of moisture into the soil.

Sisters to be buried with brother who killed them

BOSTON (AP)—Two sisters and the brother who killed them with a kitchen knife will share a single funeral service and be buried together. Samantha Revelus, 17, and her sister, Bianca, 5, were killed at their Milton home Saturday. Police shot the girls' brother, Kerby Revelus, 23, after an officer saw him decapitate the younger girl. A surviving sister, 9-year-old

Sarahphina, was recovering at a Boston hospital Monday after having surgery.

Ernst Guerrier, a Boston attorney and family friend, said he spent Monday morning with parents Regine and Vronze Revelus as they made plans to bury the three together.

"They are still dealing with the shock and disbelief of losing three of their children,"

said Guerrier.

Guerrier said there was nothing to indicate Kerby Revelus "was capable of something like this or that this tragedy could have been prevented."

Kerby Revelus had been in trouble before, but his criminal record does not show anything close to the level of brutal violence he unleashed on his sisters on Saturday.



ACROSS THE NATION

Md. mom pleads guilty in cult starvation death

BALTIMORE (AP)—A former religious cult member pleaded guilty Monday to starving her 1-year-old son to death after making an unusual deal with prosecutors: If the child is resurrected, her plea will be withdrawn. Ria Ramkissoon, 22, also agreed to testify against four other members of the now-defunct religious group known as 1 Mind Ministries. All four are charged with first-degree murder in the death of Javon Thompson. According to a statement of facts, the cult members stopped feeding the boy when he refused to say "Amen" after a meal. After Javon died, Ramkissoon sat next to his decomposing body and prayed for his resur-

rection. Ramkissoon's attorney, Steven D. Silverman, said Ramkissoon believes the resurrection will occur. She agreed to plead guilty only after prosecutors said they would drop the charges if the child comes back to life, Silverman said.

Romney's work puts him in 2012 political spotlight

BOSTON (AP)—Mitt Romney doesn't have a job for the first time in his adult life. That hardly means he's not working. In ways both subtle and overt, the 2008 Republican presidential contender, former Massachusetts governor, one-time Olympics chief and high-flying businessman is building toward a 2012 White House campaign

by judiciously engaging and disengaging with the national debate. On Tuesday, he's in Chicago to speak at a fundraiser for a prospective state treasurer candidate. On Wednesday, he's in Washington to headline a fundraiser for the National Republican Senatorial Committee. On Thursday, he's again the keynote speaker at a fundraising dinner for Republicans in New York City. After that, he's heading back to his oceanfront home in La Jolla, Calif., to continue writing newspaper columns and a political book. Based on the '60s tome "The American Challenge" by Frenchman Jean-Jacques Servan-Schreiber, it will be aimed at shaking American economic and political complacency, he said.

Asia

Warships set sail ahead of N. Korean rocket launch



The U.S. Navy's Aegis destroyer USS John S. McCain (DDG-56), left, leave as another Aegis destroyer USS Chafee (DDG-90) is seen at a naval port in Busan, South Korea, Monday, March 30, 2009.

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—Japanese, South Korean and U.S. missile-destroying ships set sail to monitor North Korea's imminent rocket launch, as Pyongyang stoked tensions Monday by detaining a South Korean worker for allegedly denouncing the North's political system. North Korea says it will send a communications satellite into orbit between April 4 and 8.

The U.S., South Korea and Japan suspect the regime is using the launch to test long-range missile technology, and warn it would face U.N. sanctions under a Security Council resolution banning the country from any ballistic activity.

North Korea has threatened to quit international talks on its nuclear disarmament if punished with sanctions. The communist regime's main newspa-

per, Rodong Sinmun, reiterated that warning Sunday, saying the talks will "completely collapse" if taken to the Security Council.

Further heightening tensions on the divided peninsula, North Korean authorities detained a South Korean worker at a joint industrial zone in the North for allegedly denouncing Pyongyang's political system and inciting female northern workers to flee the country.

Chinese general warns of more territorial disputes

BEIJING (AP)—The global financial crisis is increasing competition for marine resources and could aggravate territorial disputes in the South China Sea, a Chinese general said Monday.

Along with rich fishing grounds, the South China Sea is believed to have large oil and natural gas reserves. The disputed island groups also straddle busy sea lanes that are a crucial to China's economy.

China, Taiwan, Vietnam, Brunei, Malaysia and the Phil-

ippines have overlapping claims to all or parts of South China Sea island groups and the waters that surround them.

Air force Lt. Gen. Liu Chengjun called for stepped-up dialogue among the claimants to keep disputes from spinning out of control. Territorial conflicts in the South China Sea have occasionally broken out into armed confrontation, although the countries have more recently sought to resolve differences peacefully.

"The economic crisis is putting pressure on regional stability and could increase territorial disputes," Liu said. "Faced with this possibility, we need to increase dialogue and cooperation."

Liu was speaking at the opening ceremony of a weeklong forum in Beijing featuring top military brass from China and members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations. Several members of the association have laid claim to island groups that Beijing disputes.

ASIAN BRIEFS

NKorea says 2 US journalists will stand trial

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—Two American journalists detained at North Korea's border with China two weeks ago will be indicted and tried, "their suspected hostile acts" already confirmed, Pyongyang's state-run news agency said Tuesday. The Korean Central News Agency report did not say when a trial might take place, but said preparations to indict the Americans were under way as the investigation continues. "The illegal entry of U.S. reporters into the DPRK and their suspected hostile acts have been confirmed by evidence and their statements," the report said, referring to the country by its official name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. The report did not elaborate on what "hostile acts" the journalists allegedly committed. Euna Lee and Laura Ling, reporters for former Vice President Al

Gore's San Francisco-based Current TV media venture, were detained by North Korean border guards March 17.

Cambodian prosecutors says history demands justice

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia (AP)—Prosecutors vowed Tuesday to get justice for the 1.7 million victims of Cambodia's Khmer Rouge regime, as they opened their case against the man accused of running the communist radicals' torture machine. The long-awaited trial against Kaing Guek Eav, better known as Duch, began Monday at a U.N.-backed genocide tribunal with a full reading of the 45-page indictment against him - a litany of grisly accounts of the atrocities allegedly committed under the 1975-79 Khmer Rouge rule of the country they called Democratic Kampuchea. Executioners threw victims to their deaths, bludgeoned them and

then slit their bellies, or had medics draw so much blood that their lives drained away, according to the indictment.

Red Cross appeals for hostages as deadline passes

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The head of the Philippine Red Cross has made a last-minute appeal to al-Qaida-linked militants to spare three Red Cross hostages as a deadline for their beheading expires. The militants have threatened to decapitate one of the hostages if government troops do not pull back from their stronghold. The government has said it cannot comply. Senator Richard Gordon, head of the local Red Cross, went on nationwide television Tuesday to make his appeal and ask the Abu Sayyaf to release the hostages—a Swiss, an Italian and a Filipino—held since Jan. 15. There is no word from the Abu Sayyaf about the fate of the hostages.

World

US seeks to reassure Sunni allies

BAGHDAD (AP)—The U.S. military sought to reassure its Sunni allies Monday that it would support them despite fears that the Shiite-led government plans a purge of their ranks after a weekend crackdown in Baghdad.

A major rift between the Shiite government and the Sunni groups could fuel sectarian tensions and threaten security as the Americans begin withdrawing their forces this year.

Iraqi authorities have denied plans to disband Sunni paramilitary groups, known as Awakening Councils or Sons of Iraq, which broke with al-Qaida in Iraq and joined forces with the Americans to help combat the insurgents.

But Sunni suspicions were heightened when police arrested the leader of a Sunni group in central Baghdad's Fadhil district Saturday and, after two days of sporadic fighting, disarmed his followers.

The leader of Sunni para-

militeries in Diyala province, a lawless area at the northeastern gates of the capital, threatened Monday to stop security cooperation with U.S. and Iraqi forces if the jailed leader were not freed.

Sunni paramilitary leaders in other parts of the country said they feared the government was bent on suppressing their movement now that the U.S. is committed to withdrawing all its troops by the end of 2011.

American commanders believe the Awakening Councils were the key to turning the tide against Sunni insurgents in 2007. There have been fears that some fighters may return to the insurgency if they feel threatened by the government.

U.S. spokesman Maj. Gen. David Perkins told reporters Monday that U.S. officials were contacting senior Sunni leaders to "reassure the Sunni community" that both the American and Iraqi governments have "every intent to

live up to the promises" made to the Sunni groups.

He said the Awakening Council leader, Adel al-Mashhadani, was arrested under a legal warrant alleging he was involved in extortion, planting roadside bombs, robbery and other crimes. He said most people in Fadhil were glad to see him in custody.

"During his arrest, some of his closest supporters went out and made calls for neighborhood people ... to take up arms and engage Iraqi security forces ... and resist by the hundreds," Perkins said. "That did not happen. So even though there was a call to arms by some of his closest supporters, the people did not respond to it."

But some Awakening Council leaders said al-Mashhadani's arrest appeared part of a campaign of harassment by the Shiite government, which never fully trusted the paramilitaries because they include many former insurgents.

IRA dissidents burn cars, block Belfast roads

DUBLIN (AP)—Suspected IRA dissidents and their supporters hijacked cars Monday in working-class Catholic areas of Northern Ireland in a coordinated effort to block roads and threaten police stations, police said.

The Police Service of Northern Ireland said it was receiving a wave of reports of vehicles being hijacked by masked gunmen in several parts of Belfast and in the Kilwilkie district of Lurgan, a power base for Irish Republican Army dissidents southwest of Belfast.

Some vehicles were being set on fire in roads to disrupt traffic at rush hour, while others were abandoned near four Belfast police stations and on Northern Ireland's major mo-

torway near Lurgan.

Police said they were treating all the abandoned vehicles as potential car bombs, although they cautioned this was unlikely. They urged motorists to avoid Kilwilkie and parts of Catholic west Belfast entirely.

Monday's upheaval came at the end of a month in which IRA dissidents shot to death two soldiers and a policeman—the first killings of British security forces since 1998, the year of Northern Ireland's peace accord.

Police said at least two cars were hijacked in Lurgan's Kilwilkie district, the power base of suspected IRA dissident Colin Duffy. Duffy, 41, was charged last week with murdering the two soldiers.

One of the hijacked cars

was abandoned on the M1 motorway, which connects Belfast to Dublin, 100 miles (160 kilometers) to the south. Authorities shut part of the motorway as a precaution.

One abandoned vehicle—which police said did not contain a bomb—was left near the Stormont Parliamentary Building, the center of Northern Ireland's power-sharing government between the British Protestant majority and Irish Catholic minority.

The coalition's Protestant leader, First Minister Peter Robinson, said the rising dissident IRA threat would not spur Protestants to sever links with Sinn Fein, the IRA-linked party that represents most Catholics today.

WORLD BRIEFS

Israel army: No charges in Gaza probe

JERUSALEM (AP)—The Israeli army on Monday closed an investigation into alleged killings of civilians during its offensive in the Gaza Strip, saying soldiers' testimonies were based on hearsay, "purposely exaggerated" and not supported by facts. Allegations of wrongful shootings emerged from some soldiers speaking in a closed-door meeting at a military prep school. Their accounts, along with their reports of vandalism in Palestinian homes, were published by Israeli media earlier this month. The army's chief prosecutor angrily accused the soldiers of harming Israel's international image. "It will be difficult to evaluate the damage done to

the image and morals of the Israel Defense Forces and its soldiers ... in Israel and the world," Brig. Gen. Avichai Mendelblit said. Human rights groups accused the military of carrying out a biased and hasty inquiry that ignored key evidence and urged an independent body be formed to investigate Israeli army activity in Gaza.

Sudan's leader, UN chief face off at Arab summit

DOHA, Qatar (AP)—The U.N. chief confronted Sudan's embattled president Monday with demands to allow the return of expelled aid groups to Darfur—and was met with a defiant response as Arab leaders rallied to his side to formally reject international war crime charges against him.

The Arab League declaration is likely to boost Omar al-Bashir's willingness to challenge the West and flaunt his wide support among Arabs in opposing the arrest order by the International Criminal Court. Al-Bashir's attendance among other Arab leaders was his boldest public snub of the ICC's decision, bringing him to the same conference hall as U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon for the summit's opening speeches. Ban's spokeswoman, Michele Montas, said the two men were in the same room, but did not speak or interact. "Relief efforts should not become politicized," Ban said. "People in need must be helped irrespective of political differences," he added in an appeal to resume relief efforts to Darfur.

Campus Life

Manta String Ensemble: Playing beautiful music together

BY MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Manta String Ensemble was recently adjudged overall winner at the 5th Tumon Bay Music Festival, allowing them to bring home the Sweepstakes Trophy. Haelin Kim, a 16-year old sophomore, is the cellist and leader of the Manta String Ensemble. She wants to major in music. So Jung Song, a 16-year old sophomore, is a violinist and dreams of becoming an artist and musician. Mindy Song, a 15-year-old freshman, plays the violin and dreams of becoming a music teacher and doctor in the future. James Passi Camacho, a 15-year-old sophomore, also plays the violin and, like Mindy, dreams of a career in medicine.

Here, they share with *Saipan Tribune* readers their success in a bid to inspire and motivate their peers and community youths to get involved in musical activities.

Saipan Tribune: Can you tell us how your group began and how you came up with the name?

Answer: We were supposed to be named the “Manta String Quartet,” but we didn’t have a member who could play the viola, so we decided to name ourselves the “Manta String Ensemble.” We are a string group that consists of three violins and one cello. The group was established by our leader and cellist, Haelin Kim.

Saipan Tribune: Was the Guam festival the group’s first official big performance and competition?

Answer: Yes, the festival was our debut performance. However, we love to play for school fundraisers and for our community.

Saipan Tribune: What were the pieces of music you played during the festival that helped bring home the Sweepstakes Trophy?

Answer: We played Johann Pachelbel’s *Cannon in D*. We also played Vivaldi’s *Concerto in G Major*. We prepared for the competition by rehearsing twice a week months before the competition in Guam.

Saipan Tribune: How does it feel to become the overall winner



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The members of Manta String Ensemble as they prepare for the final round of the Tumon Bay Music Festival in Guam. From left are Min Jung Song (violin), James Camacho (violin), So Jung Song (violin), and Haelin Kim (cello).

in the festival?

Answer: As a group, we didn’t expect to win the trophy; we were just glad that our school had won so many

awards. Our Manta Band, Manta Flyerz, and solo competitors from SSHS won gold, silver, and bronze respectively in their categories and had supported us en

route to the end of the festival. Overall, our school brought back the Sweepstakes Trophy; no school has won the Sweepstakes Trophy twice in a row.

Saipan Tribune: What inspirational message do you want to share with the community and youth in relation to winning the competition?

Answer: We think that hard work and perseverance pays off and that practice makes perfect.

Saipan Tribune: What are the member’s plans after winning the performance?

Answer: We want to perform again, with more challenging pieces of music, at next year’s Tumon Bay Music Festival.

Saipan Tribune: How does music or playing an instrument help each one of you as an individual?

Answer: As a group, we all agree that music relieves the stress we feel at school, home, etc. We feel relaxed and tranquil as we enjoy making music. Music has brought us closer together. We are all brothers and sisters. We all enjoy being together and having fun.

2009 THESPIAN REGIONAL WINNERS		
High School Division:		
Solo musical		
1 st	Miki Dela Cruz	KHS
2 nd	Anna Rose Deleon Guerrero	SSHS
3 rd	Joseph Martin	MHS
4 th	Liezel Tipples	MHS
5 th	Moon Hyo Lee	MHS
Monologue:		
1 st	Liezel Tipples	MHS
2 nd	Merey Len Denora	SSHS
3 rd	Ann Mariel Flores	SSHS
4 th	Aisha Joyner	KHS
5 th	Matthew Wheat	MHS
Mime:		
1 st	Tommy Baik/Moon Hyo Lee	MHS
2 nd	Downen Jocson/Rochelle Dimapolis	MHS
3 rd	Jan Alcantara/Merey Len Denora	SSHS
Duet acting:		
1 st	Akiko Dela Cruz/Aisha Joyner	KHS
2 nd	Tommy Baik/Moon Hyo Lee	MHS
3 rd	Downen Jocson/Joseph Martin	MHS
4 th	Merey Len Denora/Nicole Ichihira	SSHS
5 th	Jan Alcantara/Vira Stark Cucal	SSHS
Film:		
1 st	Adeleja Mojica	MHS
2 nd	Matthew Wheat	MHS
3 rd	Jason Quibalt	MHS
Set design:		
1 st	Kay Park	MHS
Costume design:		
1 st	Earllon Granada	MHS
2 nd	Kristina Alfoneza	MHS
3 rd	Jacquelyn David	SSHS
Junior High School Division:		
Solo musical:		
1 st	Reese Brown	SAEF
2 nd	Zalika Joyner	COV
Mime:		
1 st	Ray Mark Denora	HJHS
2 nd	Tristan Caro/Tony Bai	HJHS
3 rd	Renzie Jay Cunanan/Tony Bai	HJHS
Monologue:		
1 st	Zalika Joyner	COV
2 nd	Reese Brown	SAEF
Duet acting:		
1 st	Royze Banados/Dayanara Flores	HJHS
2 nd	J. Ham/ J. Revilla	GCA

Youth issues in pictures

The American Literature and English classes of Katharyn Tuten-Puckett at the Saipan International School were recently given an assignment to take pictures of things and issues that concern them. The students were also asked to write captions for their pictures. The *Saipan Tribune* has agreed to feature some of those pictures, so that our readers will know that the islands’ youth are just as anxious as the rest of us about what is happening to the Commonwealth. A new batch of pictures will be published next Wednesday.



OUT OF BUSINESS

Many stores like X-Colors are going out of business and are putting up signs like this one above.

HARRISON SMITH



GRAFFITI KING

Graffiti is a big problem because people vandalize buildings and other properties. People use tag names to hide themselves and to represent themselves. This tagger must think he is powerful.

NATHAN NUTTING

CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC

Saipan International School student Sang Don Kim effectively captures the grim reality of abandoned buildings and factories with this picture of a padlocked gate.

SANG DON KIM



EMMA MCCULLOUGH-STERNS

THE PARTY’S OVER

The once-popular, fun, and entertaining center stage of La Fiesta Mall attracted both tourists and local alike. It officially closed in 2004 with the pullout of the Japan Airlines and the sale of Hotel Nikko Saipan.



POTHOLES

Hagoi Road needs help from the government. This picture shows a big hole on the Hagoi Road. It causes a lot of problem to people who use this road. It needs government to fix it soon.

DUANGKAMON HAAG

A LESSON IN DEATH

This picture was taken by Junehee Bae, a 10th grader at Saipan International School under the American Literature class of Katharyn Tuten-Puckett. She writes, “On March 1, I was walking on the beach at noon and I found this dead rat on some straws. I don’t know how this happened. So I touched it with my shoes and it was hard, and I knew that the rat was dead. Nowadays, I find lots of dead animals in common places like the beach, on the road, or beside the trash can.”



JUNEHEE BAE

Life & Style

Depeche Mode in mature mode

By CHRIS LEE

(C) 2009, LOS ANGELES TIMES

LONDON—For the overwhelming majority of Depeche Mode's storied three-decade ascension from disposable New Romantic heartthrobs to chart-topping rock stars who could fill stadiums, the division of labor between bandmates was never a question.

Dave Gahan was the group's focal point: its preening figurehead, a leather-clad baritone and unrepentant hedonist with a lust for life (well, women, drugs and booze) that famously killed him for a few minutes in 1996. Martin Gore, meanwhile, was the brains of the operation. From 1981 onward, the soft-spoken multi-instrumentalist took the reins as primary songwriter and is most responsible for casting Depeche Mode's sonic template of brooding synthesizer soundscapes and danceable industrial dissonance.

Until one day in 2005, at the outset of recording the British group's 11th studio album, "Playing the Angel," Gahan got fed up with the status quo. "I said, 'I contributed to everything you've done all these years. I want some back now,'" Gahan recalled, dragging on a cigarillo in a swanky hotel suite. "I said, 'Let's shake it up a bit. I'm going to bring in my stuff.'" Martin said, "Well... how many songs? How much?" OK, I get it. It was perceived as a threat.

Never mind that Gore's lyrics—meditations on consumerist greed, sexual politicking and exasperated spirituality, among other existential howls from the void—elevated Depeche Mode beyond its shiny, happy New Wave roots and helped the group be taken seriously by critics, not to mention sell more than 100 million albums worldwide.

In a separate suite on the other side of the hotel, Gore remembered his negotiation with Gahan somewhat differently.

"Dave came to that project with a lot of bravado," Gore said. "He wanted to write half the album! We were all a little cautious of that. He had just put out his first solo album ('Paper Monsters') and had really only just started writing."

"So there was a bit of friction," admitted Gahan.

It might have been the impasse to end Depeche Mode's quarter-century run crafting such exquisite cyber-pop hits as "Personal Jesus," "Strangelove" and "Master and Servant." But instead, it seems that Gore and Gahan's jockeying for position on "Playing the Angel" gave way to a happy bipartisan ship on Depeche Mode's new album, "Sounds of the Universe," which hits retail April 21. Its propulsive lead single, "Wrong," cracked Billboard's Hot Modern Rock Tracks' Top 20 last month and a disturbing video for the song—which follows a mysterious masked man piloting an out-of-control car



Depeche Mode's Dave Gahan, left to right, Martin Gore and Andrew Fletcher, have a new album, "Sounds of the Universe," dropping on April 21.

through the streets of downtown Los Angeles—was the most viewed clip on YouTube for two days following its posting.

Not only are the bandmates getting along better than ever these days (the group's third remaining member, keyboard player Andrew Fletcher, has never rocked that boat), their late-inning burst of creativity resulted in enough new material for two albums. Writing for a year on his own, Gore came into the studio with 17 demo tracks; Gahan, having tempered his expectations after "Playing the Angel," arrived with five. Owing to Gahan's abhorrence of the double-CD format, "Sounds of the Universe" was culled from more than 20 tracks to a concise 13—three of them written by the singer.

"For the first time during the completion of a Depeche record, I felt satisfied," Gahan said. "Not only with my participation, but our involvement together. I felt like Martin and I were on the same page in the studio quite often. It was something you didn't even have to talk about. That felt really great."

■ ■ ■

The band members separately agree that Gahan's two solo albums, "Paper Monsters" (2003) and "Hourglass" (2007), have allowed the singer a certain hard-won acceptance of his role in Depeche Mode. "Before, he was just a front man who sang someone else's lyrics," said

Fletcher. "He was a bit uncomfortable. Now, he's writing and doing solo albums, he feels more part of the group."

Producer Ben Hillier worked on both "Playing the Angel" and "Sounds of the Universe" and helped Gahan modulate his output for the new album. "Mar-

at themes of cosmic interconnectivity, spirituality and self-acceptance. On "Peace," written by Gore, Gahan sings: "I'm leaving my bitterness behind. ... There is no space for regrets. ... I'm giving all the positivity that I possess."

It's hardly the same Depeche

a reason why we're a happier unit now."

That puts the multi-instrumentalist on the same sobriety page as Gahan, 46, who famously gave up drugs and alcohol 12 years ago. No discussion of Depeche Mode is complete without mention of how the singer overdosed on a speedball of cocaine and heroin in Los Angeles in 1996 and was pronounced clinically dead for two minutes in the ambulance on the way to the hospital before he was revived.

Suddenly self-conscious, Gore caught himself. He added: "You have to be careful when you talk about spirituality and stopping drinking in the same breath. You start sounding a bit holier than thou. That's the last thing I want to do—come across as some new-age guru." He threw his head back and laughed.

Hillier calls Gore's decision to give up booze a "breakthrough" for the band. "Dave has struggled with sobriety for quite some time and now there's a certain kinship developed through similar experience," the producer said. "And Martin was 100 percent dedicated. In the evenings, he wasn't going to go off partying."

■ ■ ■

Come late April, a virtual flood of Depeche Mode content awaits the group's faithful. In addition to the album rollout, there's a CD-DVD set and a de-

lux box-set—a blunderbuss that will include bonus tracks, remixes and an "exclusive collection of demos" that includes a number of songs that didn't make the cut for "Sounds of the Universe" in addition to not one but two 84-page hard-back books featuring lyrics and photos. As well, fans can subscribe to the iTunes Pass: for a flat fee of \$18.99, listeners get the album and exclusive content—new songs, remixes, videos—for 15 weeks, a first-time deal offer from Apple's download platform.

"It's one way around illegal downloads," said Fletcher. "We've tried to give the fans proper content. They'll pay for something if it's really good."

Having both lived and died in L.A., however, Gahan remains conflicted about his past there. "For a while, it was very difficult for me to go back to L.A.," Gahan said. "There were too many ghosts. At the same time, I've always been drawn to L.A. I lived there for six years. I fell in love there, got married there. And then I fell in love with the wrong stuff. That relationship fell apart."

Moreover, with the "Tour of the Universe" Hollywood concert in August, the band is poised to again upset conventional wisdom about synth-pop and arena-sized venues. "We've done a lot of touring for a so-called 'electronic band,' and we've proven that electronic music works in a live format and in a huge live format," Gore said. "In a way, what we're going to do now is a landmark like the Rose Bowl gig. We're going out to play our first stadium tour. There's not another electronic band that has gone out to play a stadium tour."

It is one of pop music's few remaining summits for Depeche Mode to crest. Which brings up the question: How much longer does the group plan to go on?

"Look at the age we're at," said Fletcher, 47. "It's hard to know how far you can go, into Stones territory. It's moment to moment. With this album, I think our music is still relevant."

Gore put Depeche Mode's future prospects in finite terms: "When we're playing, you look in the front row and there's a lot of younger kids as well as the older audience. People are coming to hear the new record as well as songs we made 20 years ago."

"Obviously, we are the worst people to have any subjectivity on the matter, but we are really aware of our legacy and not repeating ourselves. The day we start making music and don't think we're achieving something—or stop enjoying it—we'll stop."

'In a way, what we're going to do now is a landmark like the Rose Bowl gig. We're going out to play our first stadium tour.'

tin has been writing hits for 30 years," Hillier said. "Before his solo albums, Dave hadn't done any writing. Out of all the songwriters in the world to be in competition with, Martin is not the one to choose. So to rock up with a load of songs and expect to get them all on was a little bit hopeful."

While the new music still recalls the dark synth-pop of DM's landmark 1991 album "Violator," it signals a shift into an era of emotional maturity for the band. Many of the songs on "Sounds of the Universe" grasp

Mode that on 1984's "Blasphemous Rumours" lays out the manifesto: "I don't want to start any blasphemous rumors / But I think that God's got a sick sense of humor / And when I die, I expect to find him laughing."

"I think I am more spiritually connected now," said Gore, 47. "More a part of the universe, no pun intended. I feel like I'm more in touch with my emotions. The biggest change in my life is that I stopped drinking three years ago. I feel like a different person, and that helps the atmosphere in the band. There's

Madonna's adoption ruling delayed until Friday

LILONGWE, Malawi (AP)—Madonna and her three children toured a day care center built by her charity Monday as critics slammed the star's attempt to adopt a second child from this poor African nation and a judge delayed a ruling in the case until Friday.

Some child advocacy groups say the 50-year-old pop star's plans to adopt a young Malawian girl have been fast-tracked because of Madonna's money and status. One accused her of acting like a rich "bully."

After spending about an hour in court Monday, Madonna swapped her high heels and formal skirt for camouflage trousers and big black boots for an outing into the hot, lush Malawian countryside.

Holding the hand of 3-year-old David, whose adoption from Malawi was finalized last year, the singer walked around the compound of the Mphandula child care center, about 30 miles (50 kilometers) from the capital.

Madonna also was accompanied by her 12-year-old daughter Lourdes and 8-year-old son Rocco—who sported a mohawk haircut for his first visit to Malawi.

The center, which provides primary schooling and other child care to about 4,000 children, boasts neatly cut lawn, swings and slides, and freshly painted classrooms.

This was the first time the star had seen the day care center completed. On her last visit in 2007, construction had just started. Asked by reporters how she liked the progress made, Madonna gave a thumbs up.

In one room, Madonna tried her hand at basket-weaving under the watchful eye of a few local women. David was given a cow-skin guitar as a gift, and he pretended to strum the strings.

Meanwhile, a coalition of non-governmental organizations held a press conference in the capital, Lilongwe, criticizing the pop star's latest adoption application.

"We feel Madonna is behaving like a bully," said Undule Mwakusungula, chairman of the Human Rights Consultative Committee. "She has the



U.S. singer Madonna with adopted son David Banda visiting the Mphandula Day Care Centre for orphans near Lilongwe, Malawi, Monday, March, 30, 2009.

money and the status to use her profile to manipulate, to fast-track the process."

Madonna's spokeswoman Liz Rosenberg in New York did not immediately return a call seeking comment Monday.

The girl Madonna is hoping to adopt is about 4 years old, according to a Malawian welfare official and another person involved in the proceedings who both confirmed an adoption application was under way. They spoke on condition of anonymity because the case is considered sensitive.

Monday's court roll listed only the child's name—Chifundo James, which means "Mercy" in a local language. Her uncle, John Ngalande, has said she was turning 4 soon.

The girl's 18-year-old mother was unmarried and died soon after she was born, the uncle said. Her father is believed to be alive but has little contact with his daughter, he said.

The coalition's Mwakusun-

gula told reporters that adoption should be the last resort and that children need to be taken care of by their own family.

"Mercy James is a child who has her extended close family members alive and we urge Madonna to assist the child from right here," a statement from the coalition said.

Mabvuto Bamusi, the coalition's national co-ordinator, said they were asking the court to uphold the country's laws and to "fully" assess Madonna's second adoption bid.

"Celebrities adopting children are merely taking advantages of weaknesses in our country," he said.

Malawian law is fuzzy on foreign adoptions. Regulations stipulate only that prospective parents undergo an 18- to 24-month assessment period in Malawi, a rule bent when Madonna was allowed to take David to London.

David's adoption was a trying process for the singer, who has

said the storm of criticism hurt.

The boy's mother died when he was a month old. His father has said he believed he could not care for David alone, and that placing the boy in an orphanage was the best way to ensure his survival.

Earlier Monday, David spent 2 1/2 hours with his biological father at an exclusive lodge where the pop star is staying.

"I was very happy to see him," the father, Yohane Banda, told The Associated Press, adding that David did not recognize him. "He asked me who I was."

Standing outside the courthouse with a number of other curious onlookers, E. Ngulinga said he understood the criticism directed at the pop star but that it was hard to deny a child the kind of opportunities offered by Madonna.

"That baby is going to have

the advantages of going to school and of becoming someone," he said. "Here it is very difficult."

Ngulinga said he hoped the girl and David would return when they were older to help Malawi, an impoverished country where 14 percent of adults are infected with the virus that causes AIDS. The U.N. estimates that half of the 1 million

Malawian children who have lost one or both parents have been orphaned by AIDS.

Madonna first traveled to Malawi in 2006 while filming a documentary on the devastating poverty and AIDS crisis. Her Raising Malawi organization, founded in 2006, raises funds to provide food, shelter, education and health care for children.

Actor Tim Allen greets his 2nd child, Elizabeth

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Comic actor Tim Allen is a father for the second time.

Publicist Marleah Leslie says Allen's wife, Jane, gave birth to a 5-pound, 13-ounce girl, Elizabeth, on Saturday in Los Angeles.

Leslie says the couple is thrilled with the new arrival, and both mother and

child are healthy.

Elizabeth is Allen's second child. He has a 19-year-old daughter, Katherine, from his first marriage. This is his wife's first child.

The 55-year-old Allen has starred in many movies, including "The Santa Clause" and "Toy Story," and the TV series "Home Improvement."

KON AGRADESIMIENTO

IN HUMBLE GRATITUDE

We are blessed with God's gift of relatives and friends who have come to us from near and far to share with us the mourning of our dearest

†William Sablan Pangelinan "Bill"

Your thoughtfulness in expressing your sympathy and condolences has greatly helped us in bearing the sorrow and the pain of our loss. Your words of comfort have given us strength to let go and entrust to our Lord our beloved, where he now dwells in His lovely paradise. This is the eternal life, which the Lord has always promised us. As you have remembered †Bill in your prayers, likewise we will always remember you and your loved ones in ours.

Thank you and may God bless you all.

Esta I guinaiyan mame monhayan I che'cho'-na guine gi tano. Matto I inagang I Saina para u fan siha yan I mañantos yan I manguinaiya-ta ni esta ma dingo hit. I finatton-miyo gi duranten I lisayo, Santa Misa, yan I Misan Entieron Kilisyano, hana'mas libiano I makkat na pinitni yan triniten-mame. In sen agradezi I konsuelo yan I tinayuyot-miyo para I guinaiyan-mame as

†William Sablan Pangelinan "Bill"

Ti bai infan maleffa nu hamyo gi tinayuyot-mame. Puede I Saina hana'fansafu hit todos kada dia gi duranten I lina'la-ta. Puede lakkue, I guaiyayon mina'ase-na yan si Santa Maria u bendise hit todos.

Dangkulo Na Si Yu'us Ma'ase

Diana Castro Pangelinan, Children, and Families

Fox News launches Web site FoxNation.com

NEW YORK (AP)—Fox News has started a Huffington Post-style Web site in an attempt to increase the network's online reach.

FoxNation.com debuted Monday as a destination for political commentary, highlighted by columns, blogs and videos by the network's personalities. Contributors include Bill O'Reilly, Sean Hannity, Glenn Beck and Greta Van Susteren.

As the site rolls out in the coming weeks, it will add social networking components and encourage visitors to post their opinions.

"In simple terms, it's kind

of Drudge meets Huffington Post," said Joel Cheatwood, senior vice president at Fox News Channel, referring to Matt Drudge's DrudgeReport.



O'Reilly

com and Arianna Huffington's collaborative blog.

"It's a chance for us to leverage some of the incredible opinion talent that we have, and really tap into a fan base that I think is more passionate than just about any other fan base in media," said Cheatwood.

Fox News Channel has dominated its cable competitors, MSNBC and CNN, in the cable TV ratings. According to Nielsen Media

Research, Fox has averaged 2.73 million prime-time viewers this month, through March 25. MSNBC trailed with 1.16 million and CNN had 1.14 million.

But Fox, which is owned by News Corp., has trailed significantly on the Web. FoxNews.com drew 16 million unique visitors in February, while MSNBC.com was visited by 41 million and CNN.com was visited by 36 million.

"They certainly got in the game a little quicker," said Cheatwood. "We're in the process of closing that gap."

Cheatwood said that FoxNation.com is "welcoming of people of all sorts of mindsets and beliefs and perspectives."

Urban grateful for second chances with new CD

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—It's hard to imagine Keith Urban choosing a more appropriate title for his fifth studio album, "Defying Gravity."

He says it signifies the power of the spirit to overcome the earthly problems that can pull us down. But it could just as easily be a metaphor for the 41-year-old singer's life.

Since his last album, 2006's "Love, Pain & the whole crazy thing," Urban has rebounded from a well-publicized bout with alcoholism, had a daughter with wife Nicole Kidman and settled into a relatively "normal existence" in Tennessee.

Urban calls his clean slate "liberating in every way."

"It's allowed me to get centered with my music in a way I don't think I've ever felt before," a fit and youthful-looking Urban said during a recent interview. "Obviously, I've played music all my life and I love doing it and it's my life. When it's sort of taken away like that ... When it comes back in the right way, like it has, it comes back with a meaning that is profound for me."

"Defying Gravity" hits stores Tuesday. The first single, a soaring love song called "Sweet Thing," became his latest No. 1 country hit. The second, "Kiss A Girl," is rising fast and currently at No. 20 on the Billboard country music chart.

"I'm not watching it every day," Urban said of the charts. "But it does get exciting when a song starts getting up near the top."



Keith Urban poses in Nashville, Tenn., on Wednesday, March 22, 2009.

The New Zealand-born, Australian-raised entertainer, who has been one of country music's biggest stars for the last decade, is a fixture in Nashville. He lives here with his family, and Kidman and Urban are frequently seen around town; daughter Sunday Rose was born here last summer.

Urban says he and Kidman can live a simpler life in Nashville.

"We don't have drivers and tons of security people and all this other stuff you often have to have in other places," he said. "We have a very strong love of Sydney (Australia) as well, but from a paparazzi standpoint it's a bit intrusive. They're doing their job, and I get it. But it's not as fluid and easy for us to get around as it is in Nashville."

"Defying Gravity" is his first collection of new material since "Love, Pain & the whole crazy thing." Most of the 11 songs are about relationships—some working, some not. But even when the lyrics express longing, the music is often sunny and upbeat ("Standing Right in Front of You," "Why's It Feel So Long.")

"I wrote about what inspired me the last couple of years," said Urban, who wrote or co-wrote most of the tracks. "I've certainly gone through a lot of things, particularly since 'Love and Pain' came out. What got me through all my struggles (is) I felt more compelled and inspired about than wallowing in all this stuff."

There was plenty to wallow in if

he'd wanted to. A couple of weeks before releasing "Love, Pain & the whole crazy thing," he checked himself into the Betty Ford Center after backsliding in a long struggle with substance abuse. He stayed there for three months, missing the Country Music Association Awards where he won male vocalist of the year.

Despite postponing his tour and promotional appearances, the album still went double platinum and produced several hits, including "I Told You So" and "Stupid Boy."

Of his treatment, Urban says simply, "Some people never get it, so I'm grateful to be in the place I am today."

His friend, country star Brad Paisley, said he could tell Urban had a "renewed sense of direction" with "Defying Gravity."

"He's definitely as happy as I've ever seen him," Paisley said. "The thing about Keith is that no matter how difficult times were for him, he was always very cordial and very nice. It wasn't always readily apparent when he was in a down in the dumps part of his life. He still made great music and still was very nice to people. It's almost like he internalized it."

The album's final cut is called "Thank You" and it will probably be the most analyzed song on the record. It's the only one that's overtly confessional, a gentle love letter to Kidman for helping him through "days that seemed so dark, I couldn't wait for night to come."

3-D vs. 2-D: 'Monsters' scores on added dimension

LAS VEGAS (AP)—The cheesy grocery prices 3-D gimmick of old Hollywood has become solid gold today.

The DreamWorks Animation comedy "Monsters vs. Aliens," the latest flick in a growing crop of movies using new digital 3-D technology, pulled in well over half of its \$59.3 million opening weekend grosses from 3-D screens.

By the time the movie finishes its theatrical run, the 3-D version will account for 70 percent or more of its total domestic revenues, DreamWorks Animation boss Jeffrey Katzenberg said Monday. That's because the 3-D presentation is expected to have a longer shelf life than the 2-D version, so the percentage of the gross from 3-D screenings will continue to climb.

That far exceeds the expectations of DreamWorks, which initially had figured 3-D receipts might account for half of the overall take for the sci-fi adventure whose voice cast includes Reese Witherspoon, Seth Rogen and Kiefer Sutherland.

Audiences have proved willing to shell out the few dollars extra it costs to see a movie in 3-D format instead of the traditional, flat 2-D version. That bodes well for the rush of 3-D offerings on the horizon, including Pixar Animation's "Up," James Cameron's sci-fi epic "Avatar," and a slate of DreamWorks Animation releases led by 2010's "Shrek Goes Fourth," the next installment of the blockbuster ogre franchise.

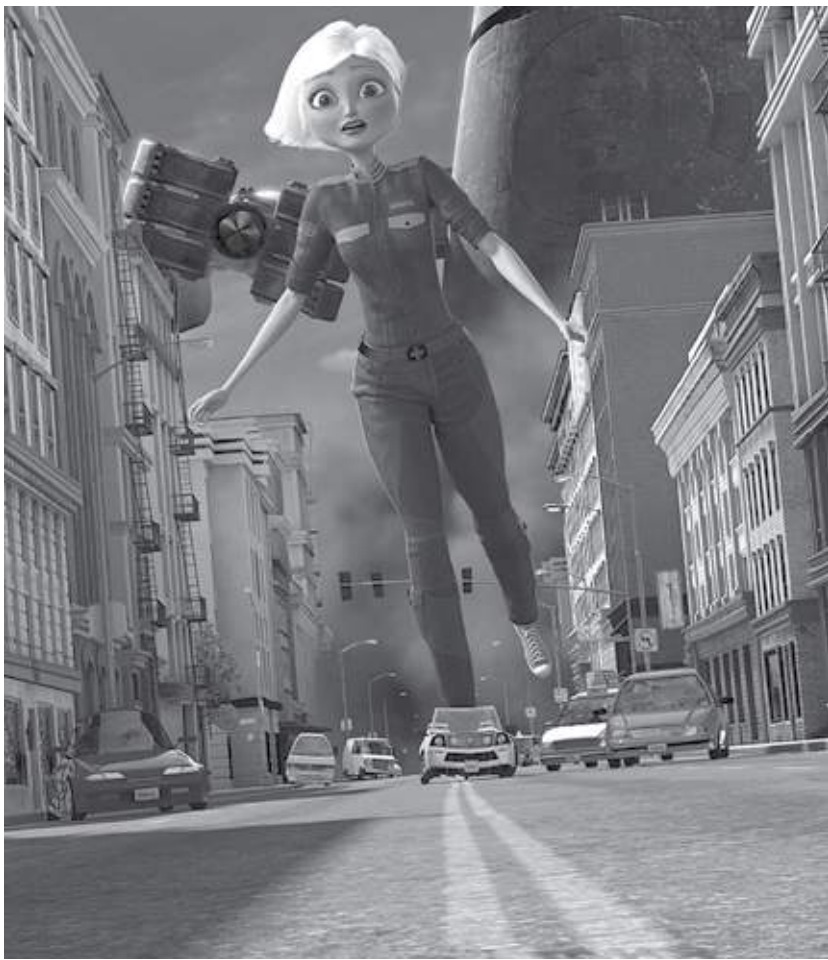
"For those people that get to see it in 3-D, I think it's going to create a whole new immersive feel to that world," Katzenberg said at ShoWest, an annual convention for theater owners. "Shrek Goes Fourth" is "well on its way in pro-

duction. We've seen a good deal of it in 3-D, and it's absolutely mind-blowing."

That's a far cry from the origins of 3-D, which started in the 1950s as a ploy for the ailing movie business as television eroded its audience. Most 3-D films shot over the decades were novelties with fuzzy, eye-straining images.

"There are some amazing filmmak-

ers who did some great films. Alfred Hitchcock worked in 3-D," Katzenberg said. "But the vast majority, most of the films, it was used just as a trick, a gimmick, a theme-park attraction, and it was meant to take something that was fundamentally not particularly good and put this sort of gimmick overlay on it as a marketing push."



In this film publicity still released by DreamWorks Animation LLC, Ginormica, voiced by Reese Witherspoon, evades the alien robot in a scene from DreamWorks Animation's "Monsters vs. Aliens."

The eye-strain issue has been eliminated with digital 3-D, which is particularly compatible with computer-animated films that are created in a virtual three-dimensional world to begin with. It's fast becoming the must-see version when fans have a choice between 2-D and 3-D.

In exit polls, 38 percent of those who saw "Monsters vs. Aliens" in 2-D actually had wanted to catch a 3-D screening, but they could not get in because of sold-out theaters, Katzenberg said.

While only a handful of films now are being offered in 3-D, demand could grow as audiences continue to get a taste of the sharp, multidimensional images.

"When color came along, Technicolor, in the 1930s, 10 years later, people stopped making movies and going to movies in black and white. Why? Because we see in color," Katzenberg said. "We also see in 3-D. I do think it's more natural for us, so we'll see."

NBC renews 'Friday Night Lights' through 2011

LOS ANGELES (AP)—NBC is keeping the lights on for "Friday Night Lights."

The acclaimed series has been renewed for two more 13-episode runs and will air through the 2010-11 season, the network said Monday.

"Not only do we know the show is staying on, but we know exactly how many episodes we are going to do," said executive producer Jason Katims. "We'll be able to think about where we might want to lead to ... what kind of stories we want to tell."

The Texas football-and-family drama starring Kyle Chandler and Connie Britton has struggled in the ratings but has been a critical bright spot for NBC, drawing consistently good reviews and Emmy and Peabody nominations and awards.

NBC is glad to stand behind a high-quality show with "a tremendously loyal fan base," said Angela Bromstad, president of prime-time entertainment for NBC and Universal Media Studios.

The new seasons of "Friday Night Lights" will play on DirecTV before its network broadcasts, a continuation of the deal NBC struck this season to make

the production financially viable.

The drama made its third-season bow on DirecTV this fall and then repeated on NBC starting in January. It airs 9 p.m. EDT Fridays.

The DirecTV showings may have eaten somewhat into the series' network ratings, Katims said, but he called the move "a pretty brilliant business decision" that kept the show alive without compromising its creativity.

The drama is averaging 4.5 million viewers this season, down 27 percent from its year-ago average of 6.2 million, according to Nielsen Media Research figures. But it's among the most popular prime-time series for upscale young adults, an audience favored by advertisers.

"The only thing we'd love for 'Friday Night Lights' in the next two seasons is to get the awards attention it deserves," Bromstad said. Although it's received several Emmy nods and won a trophy for casting, it's been overlooked in the best drama and acting categories.

"Friday Night Lights" received a George Foster Peabody Award in 2006.

Josh Hartnett hospitalized with stomach trouble

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Josh Hartnett's publicist says the 30-year-old actor has been taken to a Los Angeles hospital with gastrointestinal problems. Publicist Susan Patricola said Hartnett was transported by ambulance at 1:45 a.m. Monday to Cedars-Sinai Medical Center. She said in a statement that he "is under observation but is resting comfortably."

Patricola said Hartnett had a flare-up of a gastrointestinal issue that affected him while he was starring in an onstage production of "Rain Man" in London last year.

No other details have been provided.

Hartnett has appeared in the films "Black Hawk Down," "Sin City," "40 Days and 40 Nights" and "The Black Dahlia."



In this Feb. 17, 2009 file photo, actor Josh Hartnett attends the 'Armani 5th Avenue' store opening party in New York.

AP

Matt Dillon pleads guilty speeding, pays \$828 fine

CHELSEA, Vt. (AP)—Matt Dillon had his case dismissed after pleading guilty to speeding and paying an \$828 fine.

The 44-year-old actor was stopped Dec. 30 on Interstate 91 while driving 106 mph in rural Northern Vermont. Because of the excessive

speed, he was also charged with negligent operation of a motor vehicle.

Prosecutor Will Porter said Monday that Dillon agreed to plead guilty to speeding in exchange for having the neg-



Dillon

ligent operation charge dismissed Wednesday, which he said is common in such cases.

Dillon's lawyer, Mark Kaplan, says the plea was a fair resolution for Dillon.

Fire destroys ski lodge co-owned by Bruce Willis



AP

Firefighters work to put out any remaining smolders from buildings at Soldier Mountain Ski Resort near Fairfield, Idaho that burned to the ground Monday, March 30, 2009. Investigators are trying to determine the cause of the Monday morning blaze that destroyed the main lodge at Soldier Mountain Ski Resort, a small ski operation owned by actor Bruce Willis.



ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

Jamaica's Luciano charged with harboring fugitive

KINGSTON, Jamaica (AP)—Jamaican police say they have charged reggae singer Luciano with harboring a fugitive who shot and wounded three patrolmen while holed up inside the Grammy-nominated musician's home last week. Police Superintendent McArthur Sutherland said the 44-year-old Rastafarian was charged Monday and released after posting bail. Luciano, whose real name is Jephther McClymont, and his attorney could not immediately be reached for comment. A police statement said the hourlong standoff last week ended with the fugitive gunman, Andrew Senior, being killed at Luciano's home in

Kingston. Two of the injured officers still are hospitalized. The other officer was released. Luciano's 2001 release, "A New Day," earned a Grammy nomination for best reggae album.

Jimmie Johnson testifies in Castroneves tax trial

MIAMI (AP)—NASCAR race driver Jimmie Johnson has testified in Miami federal court in the Helio Castroneves (EH-lee-oh kas-troh-NEH'-vehz) tax evasion case. The three-time Sprint Cup champion testified Monday as a character witness for Michigan attorney Alan Miller. Miller is charged along with Castroneves and the driver's sister with conspiring to help Castro-

neves evade U.S. taxes on about \$5.5 million from 1999 to 2004. Miller also represents Johnson. Johnson called him an excellent and honest lawyer who is well known in the motorsports world. Johnson was the first defense witness Monday after prosecutors rested their case following four weeks of testimony. It's unclear if Castroneves, a two-time Indianapolis 500 winner who also won TV's "Dancing With The Stars," will testify.

Mercedes Sosa hospitalized with pneumonia

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP)—Famed Argentine folk singer Mercedes Sosa has been

'Dr. Zhivago' composer Maurice Jarre dies at 84

PARIS (AP)—A French musicians guild says Oscar-winning film composer Maurice Jarre has died at the age of 84.

Jarre is best known for writing the haunting song "Lara's Theme" from the film "Doctor Zhivago."

SACEM head Bernard Miyet cites Jarre's family Monday as saying the composer died in his California villa.

Jarre penned dozens of scores for some of Hollywood's most prominent directors.

He won Oscars for his music for "Doctor Zhivago," "Lawrence of Arabia," and "Passage to India," and was nominated for an additional six Academy Awards.

Jarre was born in 1924 in Lyon, France, and studied music at the Conservatoire de Paris before starting his career composing scores for theatrical productions. He has lived in the U.S. for decades.

FAIRFIELD, Idaho (AP)—Authorities say a fire has destroyed the main lodge at a small ski operation co-owned by Bruce Willis.

Camas County Chief Deputy Brian Miller says the Soldier Mountain Ski Resort lodge and an adjacent ski rental building were destroyed in the Monday morning blaze. No one was injured.

Willis has been working with forest officials on a new master development plan for the south-central Idaho resort, with runs in the mountains of the Sawtooth National Forest. The "Die Hard" actor has a home in nearby Hailey.

The resort closed for the season last week.

hospitalized with pneumonia. Fabian Matus, Sosa's son, says the singer was brought to a hospital after suffering from a fever and dehydration. The illness forced 73-year-old Sosa to suspend the presentation of her latest album "Cantora," which she recorded with musical artists including Shakira, Julieta Venegas, Caetano Veloso and Vicentico, among others. The folk singer has recorded more than 70 albums. Her signature song is "Gracias a la vida," or "Thanks to Life." Matus told Buenos Aires-based television station Todo Noticias that his mother will probably remain in the Trinidad clinic in Buenos Aires for two or three days. Sosa was hospitalized on Monday.

April Fools seek advice while spinning tall tales

DEAR READERS: Among the questions I am frequently asked is, "Do you ever get letters that have been made up, and can you tell when someone has indulged in 'creative writing'?" The answer is yes, and today, in honor of April Fools' Day, I'll share a few. Read on:



Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: My beloved mother used to sleep in the nude, rest her soul. Well, one night we were woken up by relatives at our front door. Needless to say, it gave her a massive heart attack. She thought it was OK to be nude at 81, but after getting caught that way, it was too much for her to handle, and she croaked!

I, however, still sleep in the nude and practice witchcraft in my birthday suit, too. While I was out in the woods one night, I ran smack dab into a deer. He stared me down as if he was looking at headlights. I was so embarrassed getting caught that I quickly climbed a tree.

Luckily, I had my cell phone with me, so I dialed 911, and the entire police department came to my rescue. To top it off, my picture was on the front page of the newspaper with a nice story line to go with it. Talk about embarrassing ... I'll probably never go nude again.

NAKED WITCH IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

DEAR NAKED WITCH: What did the headline read—"Deer Trees Em-bare-assed Witch"? Please write back and let me know. And when you do, be sure to mention where you were carrying that cell phone and whether you have recovered from the trauma.

DEAR ABBY: I was adopted by Elizabeth Taylor before she became famous. It was in the early '60s. I was 3 when I was kidnapped from her and taken to Washington, D.C., then to New York and Texas.

Now, 39 years later, while incarcerated for DUI, I recall the events of my life before I came to Texas. Now I ask to be reunited with my adopted mother, Ms. Elizabeth Taylor. I had her address years ago—she gave it to me—but I received a head injury and forgot about it. Please see if you can reunite us so that I can relocate to California.

WANTS TO MOVE WEST FROM TEXAS

DEAR WANTS TO MOVE: Elizabeth Taylor has had a storied career since becoming an international star at age 12, after appearing in the film "National Velvet" in 1944. Her life has been filled with many triumphs and tragedies—none too minute to be overlooked by the world media.

I am sure she'll be as shocked as I am to learn that she had an adopted son who was spirited away at age 3. If she is interested in learning more, she is welcome to contact me, and I will give her your information. Until then, I'm afraid you will have to pay your OWN way to California.

DEAR ABBY: I want you to know I enjoy reading your column daily. It's the only thing my cellmates and I look forward to besides the bread pudding.

My question: I'm a middle-aged, penniless federal prisoner. I am also fat and bald. What are my chances of finding true love in the "real" world?

I subscribe to all the relevant magazines to better myself—i.e. People, US, GQ and stuff. I know I'd make a great companion because I have read how to make quiche and sew. I have also learned not to ask a woman for sex until the third date (the August 2007 edition of Bizarre magazine).

I promise not to drink every day, and I'd take Sundays off—besides, it's NASCAR day. I promise to keep the toilet seat down and listen to a woman's needs as long as she's standing in front of the stove.

I think that once I'm released, I will make a great companion. What do you think?

OUT IN 24 MONTHS

DEAR STILL SERVING: I'll be waiting at the gate. In the meantime, I'm signing you up for a two-year subscription to Ms. magazine—April Fool!

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

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235- NEWS

Howard leads Magic past Heat, 101-95



MIAMI (AP)—On the night Miami retired Alonzo Mourning's number, Orlando's big man wrecked the party.

Dwight Howard scored 22 points and grabbed 18 rebounds, passing Wilt Chamberlain as the youngest NBA player to reach the 5,000-board mark, and the Magic kept their grip on the No. 2 spot in the Eastern Conference by beating the Heat 101-95 on Monday night.

Rashard Lewis scored 21 points, including the go-ahead 3-pointer with 1:32 remaining for Orlando (55-18), which stayed five games behind Cleveland and percentage points ahead of defending champion Boston in the East race.

Dwyane Wade scored 13 of his 42 points in the fourth quarter for the Heat (39-35), whose edge over Philadelphia for the East's No. 5 seed was trimmed to one game.

The series has been one-sided, with Orlando having won 12 of the last 13 meetings between the clubs.

This game, most assuredly, was not.

Hedo Turkoglu scored 16 points, Rafer Alston added 13 and Courtney Lee finished with 10 for Orlando. Mario Chalmers scored 13 points and had seven assists for the Heat, and Jermaine O'Neal added 10 for Miami.

The loss was especially costly for the Heat. Backup point guard Luther Head broke his left hand during the game and will miss four to six weeks, meaning there likely will be no way he's available for Miami's first-round playoff series.

There were seven lead changes and four ties in the final 5:49, with Wade—as typically is the case—carrying most of the offensive load for Miami. Three times in a span of 2 1/2 minutes, Wade either had a dunk or a layup that gave the Heat the lead, the last of those coming with 2:52 left and putting Miami up 92-91.

Orlando simply wasn't rattled.

Howard rattled home the second of two free throws to tie it, Lewis got free for a 3-pointer from near the Heat bench, and Turkoglu found Howard under the basket for a layup that put the Magic up 97-92 with 50.5 seconds remaining.

Miami got within two on Wade's free throws with 17 seconds left, but J.J. Redick answered those with a pair of his own 2 seconds later, and Orlando escaped - spoiling the Mourning party.

Mourning's friends and family took



Orlando Magic's Dwight Howard (12) fights for the loose ball as Miami Heat's Dwyane Wade (3) defends during the first quarter of an NBA basketball game in Miami, Monday, March 30, 2009.

bets on whether he'd cry during the halftime celebration, and he insisted he wouldn't.

He was wrong.

The 43-minute ceremony featured the reading of a letter from President Barack Obama, plus brief speeches from Gov. Charlie Crist, Heat president Pat Riley, Mourning's former Georgetown coach John Thompson and fellow former Hoya Patrick Ewing, a longtime mentor.

"Just eight short years ago, eight short years ago, I didn't envision this moment happening," Mourning said, moments after the banner bearing his name and No. 33 was raised. "This is probably one of the greatest moments of my life and I'm honored to be here this evening."

He was diagnosed with kidney disease in 2000, needed a transplant in

2003, and was told he'd never play in the NBA again. He returned, of course, and got the NBA championship he spent a career chasing in 2006, when the Heat beat Dallas in six games.

"I wanted to let you know how proud we all are of your extraordinary career, but also the way you have given back to the community all these years," Obama wrote to Mourning. "You have been, and will continue to be, a great leader. God bless you and your family."

As the speeches went on, Mourning's eyes began to water. Tears flowed and his lips trembled when the banner was being hoisted.

"Y'all can go and collect your money," Mourning said.

It was a night for the Heat to celebrate, coach Erik Spoelstra said before the game, and sure enough, Miami seemed inspired.

Orlando led 46-43 after a back-and-forth first half, where the Heat started fast, went ice cold to fall into a double-digit hole, then clawed back.

Halftime for NBA games that aren't nationally televised are typically 14 minutes. Monday's was supposed to be 24 minutes to accommodate the Mourning ceremony, but by the time the game actually resumed, roughly the equivalent of three halftimes had passed.

And once again, when the Magic seemed poised to take control, Miami tried to fight back. Lewis made a 3-pointer with 2:01 left for a 70-63 Orlando lead, but the Heat scored the final six points of the quarter and were only down by one heading into the fourth.

Bucks 107, Nets 78

At East Rutherford, N.J., Richard Jef-

erson had 29 points and 10 rebounds against his former teammates and the Milwaukee Bucks snapped a season-high, five-game losing streak.

Charlie Villanueva added 20 points for the Bucks, who kept their slim hopes for a playoff berth alive by snapping a seven-game road losing streak and sending the Nets to their fifth straight loss, matching their season high.

The win was only the fifth in 19 games for Milwaukee, which is four games behind Chicago in the race for the final playoff berth in the Eastern Conference. The Bucks (32-43) have seven games left.

Chris Douglas-Roberts had 14 points for New Jersey, which suffered its second embarrassing loss in 24 hours. Minnesota snapped a seven-game losing streak by beating the Nets on Sunday.

Jazz 112, Knicks 104

At Salt Lake City, Deron Williams had 24 points and 13 assists and the Utah Jazz beat the New York Knicks, rallying after blowing a huge lead at home for the second straight game.

The Jazz led by 24 early in the third quarter, but fell behind by a point in the fourth before regrouping and closing the game on a 20-11 run.

Carlos Boozer added 21 points and 11 rebounds and Kyle Korver scored 16 as the Jazz won their 15th straight home game.

Al Harrington scored 24 to lead the Knicks before getting ejected with two technicals for arguing a foul call with 22 seconds left.

Grizzlies 114, Warriors 109

At Oakland, Calif., O.J. Mayo scored 24 points and had a career-high 10 assists, Rudy Gay added 21 points and the Memphis Grizzlies rallied from nine points down in the fourth quarter to beat the short-handed Golden State Warriors.

Mayo struggled with his shot most of the night, but made a pair of free throws on technical fouls in the fourth quarter and added a driving layup with 2 minutes left to cap a 25-5 run for Memphis.

Mike Conley added 21 points and six rebounds for the Grizzlies (19-54), who won for just the fourth time in 22 games.

Monta Ellis had 29 points for Golden State, which suited up just eight players for the second straight game and lost its fifth in a row.

NBA BRIEFS

Cuban fined \$25,000 for Twitter comment

DALLAS (AP)—The NBA slapped Mavericks owner Mark Cuban with a \$25,000 fine Sunday for publicly criticizing the officials after Denver's 103-101 win over Dallas. Cuban used Twitter to complain after Friday's game that Denver's J.R. Smith was not called for coming off the bench to taunt Antoine Wright after he missed a shot near the Nuggets bench. Cuban said in another posting Sunday that he "can't say no one makes money from twitter now. the nba does." In an earlier meeting of the two teams, the Mavericks owner was fined \$25,000 after becoming upset about a foul that wasn't called on Smith. Cuban offered to

donate the money to whatever charity Smith chose, then suggested he'd give it to the fund for a gruesomely injured hockey player.

Sprained elbow sidelines Posey three games

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Hornets forward James Posey will miss at least the next three games with a sprained left elbow. The injury occurred during Friday night's game in New York. Posey will be re-evaluated on Saturday once the Hornets return from a three-game road trip that begins Tuesday at Sacramento. He will travel with the team on the trip. Posey was hit on his elbow during the Knicks game and it swelled. He

underwent an MRI exam on Saturday. In Friday's loss at New York, Posey threw the ball out of frustration at referee Gary Zielinski's feet in the fourth quarter, which caused his ejection from the game. The NBA suspended him for one-game, which he served during Sunday's 90-86 victory against the San Antonio Spurs.

Spurs assistant recruited as Australia coach

SYDNEY (AP)—San Antonio Spurs assistant coach Brett Brown has replaced Brian Goorjian as head coach of the Australian men's basketball team leading up to the 2012 London Olympics. Basketball Australia chairman David Thodey made the announce-

ment Tuesday, saying the 48-year-old American, who has worked with the Spurs in the NBA for six years and is a former assistant with the Australian Boomers, offered "fresh energy and new ideas." "The Basketball Australia board is extremely proud of the performance of the Boomers in Beijing and recognizes the positive building blocks that have been put in place by Brian Goorjian for the Boomers' future," Thodey said. "But we opened the door to the possibility of change after two Olympic cycles and with our sport moving forward in an exciting new direction we decided to utilize Brett Brown's fresh energy and new ideas. Goorjian had 77 wins and 43 losses as national coach be-

tween 2002 and 2008, including the 2004 and 2008 Olympics and the 2006 world championship. Australia is ninth in the FIBA men's world rankings.

Garnett out for two more games

BOSTON (AP)—Boston Celtics forward Kevin Garnett is out for another two games. Celtics coach Doc Rivers said Sunday that Garnett would miss the game against Oklahoma City and probably Wednesday's against Charlotte. Garnett missed 13 games with a strained right knee, then played part-time in four while trying to work his way back into shape. He missed Friday night's game against Atlanta. Boston is 11-6 without Garnett this season.

Person with knowledge: Talks delay Burress hearing



NEW YORK (AP)—Plaxico Burress will return to court Tuesday in his gun possession case as his lawyers and prosecutors haggle over a plea deal and what punishment the New York Giants star should face for accidentally shooting himself in a crowded nightclub last year.

A law enforcement official with knowledge of the case said that Burress and prosecutors have been in active discussions about a plea deal, but remain at odds over the terms, with the District Attorney's office pushing for a stiffer punishment than what

defense lawyers believe Burress deserves. The individual spoke on condition of anonymity because the discussions are ongoing.

Burress, who fired a bullet into his thigh at a Manhattan nightclub in November with a gun he'd stuffed in his waistband, has been charged with second-degree criminal possession of a weapon, a felony that carries a minimum prison sentence of 3 1/2 years in prison and a maximum of 15 years upon conviction.

His attorney Ben Brafman said Burress will appear in court Tuesday but the hearing will be adjourned. He wouldn't

comment on a possible plea deal.

"I'm not going to get into that," he said.

Statistics show that more than eight out of 10 people arrested in the city last year on the same charge Burress faces received reduced charges, though some plea deals included jail time.

Former prosecutor Randy M. Mastro, a deputy mayor under Rudy Giuliani, said Burress' case was going to be "a close call."

"He's got a pretty compelling story to tell," Mastro said. "But, at the same time, there's been a tremendous public outcry, particularly by some politi-

cians, about this famous figure having a weapon."

Prosecutors, in offering reduced charges in gun possession cases, consider past criminal history, arrest circumstances and the reason for having the weapon.

The 31-year-old wide receiver, who caught the winning touchdown pass in the Giants' 2008 Super Bowl victory over the previously undefeated New England Patriots, has no criminal record. The gun he was carrying had a Florida license that only recently expired; it wasn't licensed in New York.

Burress has not spoken publicly about why he was carrying a gun, but some have speculated it was for

safety reasons after teammate Steve Smith was robbed at gunpoint three days earlier.

Mastro said that would make for a "compelling story."

"He has a story to tell the courts that is more sympathetic than the typical gun possession charge," Mastro said.

Mayor Michael Bloomberg, who has waged a long campaign against illegal guns, has publicly castigated Burress for carrying the .40-caliber weapon. And there was talk of a cover-up by the Giants and the NFL after the Nov. 28 incident at the Latin Quarter after it took police nearly 12 hours to figure out Burress had shot himself and was hospitalized; the player turned himself in three days later.

In this Jan. 14, 2009, file photo, New York Giants wide receiver Plaxico Burress rubs his hands together against the cold as he walks to the Lebanon County Courthouse in Lebanon, Pa.

AP



NFL player accepts officer's apology

DALLAS (AP)—An NFL player said Monday he accepts the apology offered by a Dallas police officer who stopped him with a drawn gun in a hospital parking lot while his mother-in-law was dying inside.

Houston Texans running back Ryan Moats said on ABC's "Good Morning America" that he hopes Officer Robert Powell was sincere in his apology.

Powell stopped Moats' SUV outside Baylor Regional Medical Center in suburban Plano on March 18 after the vehicle rolled through a red light. Moats' wife, Tamishia, and other relatives were also in the car.

The officer pulled out his gun and threatened Moats with jail as the player pleaded to be allowed to go inside the hospital. Moats' mother-in-law, 45-year-old Jonetta Collinsworth, died before he got there, while Powell wrote Moats a ticket and lectured him.

"I loved Jo ... my mother-in-law. We call her Jo. She was just like my mom basically," Ryan Moats said.

Powell, who first apologized in a statement Friday through his attorneys, repeatedly said in an interview with Dallas-Fort Worth television station KTVT aired Monday night that he made mistakes in the stop.

Powell said he didn't know why he didn't allow Moats to go into the hospital once he realized what was happening.

"I should have. Again, I don't know why I didn't do that and I should have. That was my mistake," Powell told KTVT.

He also said he didn't know why he spoke to Moats the way he did.

"That was my mistake. All I was trying to do was get him to calm down."

Powell, who has been placed on paid leave pending an investigation, said he didn't know what his punishment should be but he hoped he wouldn't lose his job.

Tamishia Moats said earlier Monday she'd like to hear the apology personally, but that she, too, would definitely accept it.



MEMPHIS, Tennessee (AP)—The University of Memphis gave Kentucky permission Monday to speak to John Calipari about the Wildcats' head coaching position, then made a final push to try to keep the coach. Some of Memphis' key boosters met with Calipari on Monday. But one booster expects Calipari to go to Kentucky, though the person, speaking on condition of anonymity because of the ongoing negotiations, acknowledged the coach was torn between the two great opportunities.

The Wildcats had a short meeting at their practice gym Monday afternoon. Asked afterward if they had a new coach, senior Jared Carter said, "I think so." Asked if it was Calipari, Carter shrugged his shoulders and said, "I don't know."

Several other Kentucky players, including stars Jodie Meeks and Patrick Patterson, were escorted by university staffers and did not comment after leaving the Joe Craft Center.

Calipari met with Memphis players Monday morning.

"He told us he's going to keep us posted," Memphis freshman forward Wesley Witherspoon told WHBQ-TV in Memphis after Calipari met with the team Monday morning.

Kentucky fired Billy Gillispie on Friday, ready to move on after two frustrating seasons. They went right to work

Kentucky receives permission to talk to Calipari

Monday, with two university staffers carrying large cardboard photos of Gillispie out of the practice center while media crews watched.

Kentucky spokesman DeWayne Peevy would not confirm or deny an ESPN report that Wildcats officials had already met with Calipari and were prepared to offer him the job. Citing unidentified sources, ESPN.com reported the offer was believed to be for eight years and around \$35 million.

Calipari did not immediately return text messages from The Associated Press, and several Memphis players did not respond to e-mail messages left by the AP. And Kentucky athletic director Mitch Barnhart did not respond to AP requests for comment.

In its coaching search, Kentucky quickly targeted Calipari, who just finished his ninth season at Memphis and has a 137-14 record over the past four seasons. He guided Memphis to a national runner-up finish last season, and the Tigers (33-4) were ousted in the West Regional semifinal on Thursday night.

Calipari currently has the top-rated recruiting class in the country, according to Rivals.com and Scout.com. However, his latest recruit 6-foot-10 DeMarcus Cousins committed verbally within the past month and could follow Calipari to Kentucky if the coach leaves.

On the Memphis campus, students seem resigned to losing Calipari and those recruits.

"It's tough knowing he's taking all those guys with him," Memphis sophomore Josh Thomas said.

Landing Calipari won't be cheap. He has four years left on his contract paying him \$2.35 million annually. He also has an annuity averaging \$1 million over the deal through 2013.

Throw in whatever settlement Kentucky negotiates with Gillispie, the Wildcats could have near \$10 million invested in the head coach of its basketball program next year.

That doesn't matter to one of college basketball's most ardent fan bases, which seemed to electrify by the possibility of getting Calipari. A Facebook group called "Bring John Calipari to UK" had swelled to more than 11,000 members as of Monday evening while a popular Kentucky message board had over 18,000 people on it during the dinner hour.

Barnhart stressed the need for finding a coach who can embrace all the things that come with leading college basketball's winningest program. Gillispie went just 40-27 in two seasons and seemed uncomfortable with the celebrity that came with the job.

Calipari, never one to shy away from a camera, would seem to have

the charisma to match Louisville coach Rick Pitino. Pitino was named the Wildcats coach 20 years ago, winning a national championship in eight seasons at Kentucky.

Pitino and Calipari used to spar when the Cardinals battled the Tigers in Conference USA. Having two of the nation's most high-profile coaches 70 miles apart could add another layer to one of the country's most bitter rivalries.

The two met in the 1996 Final Four when Pitino was at Kentucky and Calipari was at Massachusetts. The Wildcats won 81-74 on their way to a sixth national championship.

Pitino left for the NBA a year later, and Kentucky has been in a small but steady decline ever since.

Gillispie was hired to bring some of the swagger back and instead the Wildcats failed to make the NCAA tournament this year for the first time since 1991. He was let go last week after Barnhart said the match of coach and program wasn't a "good fit."

Barnhart knows he'll need to find a leader who can thrive under the unique spotlight coaching the Wildcats provides. Calipari doesn't lack for charm, though his past NCAA transgressions could be problematic for a program still sensitive of its image following the

recruiting scandal left behind by Eddie Sutton in the late-1980s.

Massachusetts had to vacate its '96 Final Four appearance after star Marcus Camby admitted to accepting gifts from a sports agent.

Calipari moved on to the NBA before landing at Memphis in 2000. The Tigers have not had any troubles during his tenure while developing into a national powerhouse.

Kentucky, however, is hardly the first program to flirt with Calipari, who often has received a bigger paycheck from Memphis as a result of the interest.

He signed a contract extension in April 2008 that pushed his deal through the 2012-13 season giving him a \$500,000 a year raise with a \$5 million bonus if he finishes the contract. That pushed his annual salary to \$2.35 million.

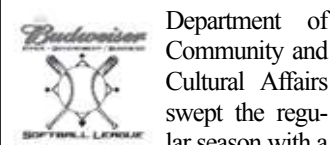
He got that deal after taking Memphis to an NCAA Division I record 38 wins and the national championship game - the program's first Final Four since 1985 and first NCAA final since 1973. The Tigers lost 75-68 in overtime to Kansas.

"What this contract has done is wiped out 99 percent of that stuff, and I told them that I appreciate that. It's not only the base salary, but it's also the longevity bonus which wipes out the others. There are no other places. This is the place," Calipari said at a news conference when the contract was signed.

5 football clubs joining Spring Youth League

DCCA sweeps pennant as playoff cast complete

By **NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.**
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REPORTER



Department of Community and Cultural Affairs swept the regular season with a victory over Pacific Islands Club by forfeiture last Friday night to take the pennant of the 2009 Budweiser Inter-Government Slow-pitch Softball League at the Capital Hill Ballpark.

DCCA won all of its 19 games this year to solidify its hold of the No. 1 spot for the playoffs, which will start in the next few days.

The results of last Monday's games completed the 10-team field cast for the playoff round. That left the 10 remaining games of the regular season merely to determine the final placing for the playoffs.

Joining the DCCA into the next round are the Beach Boys

(15-3), Freedom Air (15-3), Docomo (15-4), No Zone (14-5), Joeten Motor Jets (13-6), CPA (13-5), Legislature (11-8), POI (9-8), and P&S (9-10).

No Zone 13, CUC 2

No Zone closed out its regular season assignment with an overpowering 13-2 win over Commonwealth Utilities Corp.

Jerry Ayuyu went to bat three times and hit all of them including a two-run homerun and six RBIs.

Prior to that, Ayuyu was No. 4 with most homeruns this year with 14. He moved to third with 17.

But more importantly, No Zone is currently in fifth place with 14 wins and five losses.

Freedom Air 8, Joeten Motors 2

Roy Celis hit two homeruns in his first two of three tries at bat to lead Freedom Air to an 8-2

victory over the Joeten Motor Jets also on Monday night.

That win created a two-way tie in second place with the Beach Boys and Freedom Air with their identical 13-5 records.

Celis is now on top of the list with most homeruns with his 19 total. DCCA's Joey Dela Cruz slipped to second place with 18.

P&S 8, Hopwood 7

P&S took the last slot for the playoffs as it rallied back in the seventh and final inning to score a 8-7 win against Hopwood.

With Hopwood in front, 7-6, after the top of the seventh inning, P&S first baseman Joe Quitugua drove home short-stop Jess Mesa with a single to tie the score at 7-7 with no out in the bottom seventh.

The next P&S batter Ton Reyes singled to send Quitugua to third base then Dimas Omar made the winning hit that sent Quitugua home for the final run.

By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**
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REPORTER



The 2009 N M I F A Spring Youth Football League will kick off this Saturday with five football clubs playing in various fields.

Around 500 kids from MP United FC, Matansa FC Paire FC, Independents FC, and Tan Holdings FC will be competing in six age groups, namely the U4, U6, U8, U10, and U13, and the U18.

The U4 division will have two teams from MP United and one from Paire, while U6 will feature nine teams, three from MP United, two from Paire, two from Matansa, and one each from Independents and Tan Holdings FC.

The U8 and U10 division have 10 teams each. MP United and Paire are fielding three teams apiece in U8, Matansa has two, and Independents and Tan Holdings FC have one each. In U10, Matansa has three teams, MP United, Paire, and Indepen-

dents have two apiece, and Tan Holdings has one.

The U4, U6, U8, and U10 age groups will have co-ed teams, while U13 has a separate competition for boys and girls. Eight teams are entered in the boys' U13, while the girls division has four teams. MP United, Independents, and Paire have two boys teams each, while Matansa and Tan Holdings have one apiece. In the girls' division, Independents has two, and Paire and Matansa has one each.

In the U18, MP United and Paire have one team each in the girls and boys division, but league coordinator Lydia Tan said they will be holding a meeting tomorrow to determine other interested clubs.

Tan added that the five football clubs are still accepting players. For registration, contact Tina Goodwin of MP United at 322 2072 or at tina@saipan.com; Christina Smith of Matansa at 285 9095 or at christina.m.smith@gmail.com; Rebecca Newman of Paire at

pairiefc@gmail.com; Michael Thomas of Independents at kav-abilo@gmail.com.; and Ariel Mariano of Tan Holdings FC at 233-2898 or ariel_mariano@tanholdings.com.

Games in the spring league will be played every Saturday from 1pm to 6pm.

MP United's home fields will be at Garapan Elementary School and Navy Hill, Paire at San Vicente Elementary School, Independents at Saipan Southern High School, Matansa at Gregorio T. Camacho, Tan Holdings FC at San Antonio Elementary School, while U13 and U18 teams will play at Hopwood Junior High School and CPA Field, respectively.

The league will run for about two months and will culminate with a youth football festival set for May 30.

DOCOMO

From Page 28

moved within four, with 47 seconds left in the game.

IT&E could have cut the lead to two after a Jon Artates steal in the inbound play. But Ruloked, who received Artates' pass, opted to kick the ball out to Ranola, instead of going strong to the basket. Ranola ended up chas-

ing the ball to the left sideline and lost the possession.

Three free throws from Wallace sealed the win for Docomo, which moved two victories away from nailing a finals seat. Docomo's next foe in the double-elimination playoffs is the CNMI Nationals. The Nationals-Docomo tiff will be played tonight at 8pm.

In the second game, Diamond Auto Care dominated the Run-

nin' Rebels from start to finish to win its playoff debut.

Jawn Joyner top-scored for the Auto Fixers with 20 points, making timely jumpers that foiled the Runnin' Rebels' repeated comeback bids.

Errol Peredo and Bruce Berline chipped in 14 and 11 markers, respectively.

Only Jose Tumaquip finished in double figures for the Runnin' Rebels, drilling 22 points.

First Game

Docomo 88 – Wallace 21, Fital 20, Palacios 13, Ja. Villacrusis 10, Manibusan 10, Jo. Villacrusis 5, Lee 4, Diaz 2, Paul 1.

IT&E 81 – De Guzman 25, Ranola 18, Ruloked 11, Mendiola 8, De Dios 6, Montano 3, Estolas 2, Mercurio 2, Artates 1.

Scoring by quarters: 29-15, 42-35, 64-56, 88-81.

Second Game

Diamond Auto Care 72 – Joyner 20, Peredo 14, Berline 11, Fernandez 8, Muleta 4, Gamboa 3, Talania 2, Brostrom 2, Camacho 2.

Runnin' Rebels 61 – Tumaquip 22, Teregeyo 7, L. Rangamar 7, Norita 6, Coldeen 4, Iguel 4, Lisua 3, Kenty 3.

Scoring by quarters: 20-12, 40-27, 54-45, 72-61.

6 PAIRS

From Page 28

games, beating the tandem of Montoya and Bandoja, 21-14, 21-17, and the pair of Lito Mendoza and Joseph Santos, 21-17, 21-19.

Mendoza and Santos hold a 1-1 record after downing Montoya and Bandoja on Day 1 of the weekend tournament, 21-19, 21-18. The duo of Bandoja and Montoya is winless in three games.

In the men's B division, two

pairs are undefeated with Mario Diola and Paul Navarro winning two games on Day 1 and Roger Vales and Efren Cacdac also notching a 2-0 slate.

Diola and Navarro prevailed over Alfred Acosta and Edwin Maratas, 21-11, 21-13, 21-18, and Daniel Macario and Jorge Olanda, 19-21, 21-16, 21-19. The tandem of Vales and Cacdac won over Emil De Belen and Rommel Villavisa, 21-19, 22-20, on Day 1, and against Andrew Galvez and Victor Reyes, 21-19, 12-31, 21-14, on Day 2.

In the women's B vision, the pair of Marylyn Montano and Cheng Saturno is unbeaten in two games after trouncing Ingrid Sanchez/Cristy Villaflor, 21-16, 21-15, and Lea Estinopo and Rose Lazaro, 21-10, 21-13.

Sanchez and Villaflor are in second place with a 2-1 slate after winning their first game over Estinopo and Lazaro, 21-12, 21-5, and third match against Shirley Kim and Angelie Ito, 21-14, 21-16.

Rodwealth Espana and James Digno are leading in the men's C division with a perfect 2-0

record following their victories over Puy Macario and Chris Hilario, 21-17, 21-17, and Ezekiel Macario and Roding Domingo, 21-17, 21-10. Puy and Hilario recovered from their opening game loss after winning two games Sunday against Frank Villagomez and Ric Brien, 21-18, 7-21, 21-15, and Ezekiel and Domingo, 21-11, 21-11.

Leading in the women's C division is the pair of Elna Curate and Merlie Tolentino, who whipped Malou Guzman and Malou Mendoza Saturday, 14-21, 21-16, 21-12, and Dorie

Pena and Hazel Dela Santa Sunday, 21-17, 21-15.

In the other game in the women's C division, Annette Quiambao and Irene Santiago defeated Mendoza and Guzman, 21-17, 22-20.

Action in the IT&E tournament will continue this weekend. The men's A and men's and women's C divisions will have a double round-robin format, while the men's and women's B will be a single round robin affair. The Top 4 teams in each division will move to the cross-over semifinals.

MORE

From Page 28

figure, but we were expecting 1,400 to join the walkathon, and around 2,000 people participating in various activities here," American Red Cross CNMI Chapter executive director John Hirsch said.

"We will get the final numbers once schools and various organizations turn

in their registration forms. But most of the participants are students from various schools and these students were joined by their parents," Hirsch added.

Hirsch said they are hoping to raise \$40,000 from the walkathon and pledges from various companies/organizations and individuals with the money to be used in delivering services back to the people.

"Funds collected will stay

with the American Red Cross CNMI Chapter and will be used for different services to the community, such as providing training/drills during disasters and other emergency cases, outreach program, and medical services. We are very thankful to various companies, schools, and non-profit organizations in the CNMI for their continued support to the American Red Cross and its worthy cause," said Hirsch.

Hirsch specifically thanked Subway Restaurants, Coca-Cola Beverage Co. (Micronesia), Inc., and Foremost Foods for providing food and beverages to walkers.

These companies stationed volunteers in various stops from Susupe to Garapan Fishing Base to hand sandwiches, fruits, and cups of water to participants.

Other American Red Cross supporters had their booths

set up in Susupe, providing the community with fun activities, such as free throw shooting, face painting, giant bouncing house, and other games for kids.

Health care organizations and companies also provided blood sugar testing, blood pressure checkup, and a five-minute massage to participants.

"Overall, we had activities here that the entire family can enjoy," Hirsch said.

AYUYU

From Page 28

Ayuyu was then summoned to the mound and struck out the first batter he faced. He then forced Mike Pangelinan and Norita to ground out to

end the inning.

After another unproductive inning for the defending champions, Ayuyu gave Rock Steady a chance by finishing off all three batters he faced on a couple of groundouts and a strikeout.

Rock Steady's rally in the

eighth began with consecutive singles by Byron Kaipat and Ben Guerrero.

Ayuyu then hit a game tying two-run double and Juan Tenorio gave Rock Steady the go-ahead run on a single by Mike Pangelinan.

After Mendiola was struck

out by Falcons reliever Pete Teigita, Ayuyu reached home plate on a single by Secharmidal and Pangelinan scored the game's final run with another single by Toi Celis.

Ayuyu allowed Suel and Nunu Kapileo to reach base with one out before the re-

liever settled down in the ninth by forcing Norita to fly out to third and Kapileo to ground out.

With the win, Rock Steady joined the Ford Rangers on top with a 4-1 win-loss record, while the Falcons slipped to fourth at 3-2.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS				
EASTERN CONFERENCE				
Atlantic Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
y-Boston	56	19	.747	—
Philadelphia	37	35	.514	17 1/2
New Jersey	30	44	.405	25 1/2
New York	29	44	.397	26
Toronto	28	45	.384	27
Central Division				
y-Cleveland	60	13	.822	—
Detroit	36	37	.493	24
Chicago	36	39	.480	25
Milwaukee	32	43	.427	29
Indiana	31	43	.419	29 1/2
Southeast Division				
y-Orlando	55	18	.753	—
x-Atlanta	43	31	.581	12 1/2
Miami	39	35	.527	16 1/2
Charlotte	33	40	.452	22
Washington	17	58	.227	39
WESTERN CONFERENCE				
Southwest Division				
x-San Antonio	48	25	.658	—
x-Houston	48	26	.649	0
New Orleans	45	27	.625	2 1/2
Dallas	43	30	.589	5
Memphis	18	54	.250	29 1/2
Northwest Division				
Denver	48	26	.649	—
Portland	46	27	.630	1 1/2
Utah	45	27	.625	2
Minnesota	21	53	.284	27
Oklahoma City	20	53	.274	27 1/2
Pacific Division				
z-LA Lakers	58	15	.795	—
Phoenix	40	34	.541	18 1/2
Golden State	25	48	.342	33
LA Clippers	18	56	.243	40 1/2
Sacramento	16	56	.222	41 1/2
Yesterday's Games				
Orlando 101, Miami 95				
Milwaukee 107, New Jersey 78				
Utah 112, New York 104				
Memphis 114, Golden State 109				
By The Associated Press				
LOCAL SCORES				
BUDWEISER SML STANDINGS				
Rock Steady	4	1		
Ford Rangers	4	1		
D-9ers	3	1		
Tanapag Falcons	3	2		
Master Rangers	1	4		
Korean Phoenix	0	3		
Young Guns	0	3		
BUDWEISER SOFTBALL STANDINGS				
DCCA	19	0		
Beach Boys	15	3		
Freedom Air	15	3		
Docomo	15	4		
No Zone	14	5		
Joeten Motor Jets	13	6		
CPA	13	5		
Legislature	11	8		
POI	9	8		
P&S	9	10		
CUC	8	11		
CRM/DEQ	7	12		
DLNR	7	12		
CHC	7	11		
PSS	6	11		
PIC	5	14		
Mayors	4	14		
Customs	4	15		
Law & Order	3	16		
Hopwood	0	18		

Gorilla Warfare MMA “Battle Ready”

PHOTOS By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.



Guam's Mike "Ogre" Davis connects with a right straight to the face of Saipan's Charlz "The Predator" Aiken early in their super heavyweight fight in Gorilla Warfare MMA "Battle Ready" held last Saturday at the Royal Taga Hall of Saipan World Resort.



Mike "Ogre" Davis is lying face down on the officials' table during the later stages of his fight against Charlz "The Predator" Aiken.



Chicago's Ed Carpenter pummels Saipan's Kelvin "The Big Hit" Fitial during the main event of Gorilla Warfare MMA "Battle Ready."



Eduard "The Landslide" Folang of the Philippines tags Jerome Norita with left and right combinations to the head and body in the semi main event of Gorilla Warfare MMA "Battle Ready."



Jay "Furbs" Santos, who has a record of 6-1, talks to table officials after his opponent in the bantamweight class Joel "Mushu" Pangelinan (1-0) failed to show up.



Tara "The Tarantula" Namauleg won in the 23-second mark of the first round via verbal tapout against neophyte Kristy "The Tasty" Halstead in the lone woman fight of Gorilla Warfare MMA "Battle Ready."



Robert "The Pitbull" Palacios wrestles with Rick "2 Slick" San Nicolas with the former winning the bout by tapout with 2:05 of the first round.



Shane "N Sane" Camacho wins by TKO in 53 seconds of the first round over Lionel "Da Hellion" Borja in the middleweight division.



John "The Jackhammer" Borja raises both arms as the referee declares him the winner over Neil "the Lionheart" Taisacan in their light heavyweight clash.



Kelvin "The Big Hit" Fitial stays on his corner at the end of the first round of his fight against Ed Carpenter in Gorilla Warfare MMA "Battle Ready."

5 football clubs joining Spring Youth League



Around 500 kids from MP United FC, Matansa FC Paire FC, Independents FC, and Tan Holdings FC will be competing in six age groups, namely the U4, U6, U8, U10, and U13, and the U18.

26

Saipan Tribune Sports

Howard leads Magic past Heat, 101-95

Dwight Howard scored 22 points and grabbed 18 rebounds, passing Wilt Chamberlain as the youngest NBA player to reach the 5,000-board mark, and the Magic kept their grip on the No. 2 spot in the Eastern Conference.

24



28 WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1, 2009

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Docomo, Diamond draw first blood

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Docomo Pacific caught IT&E out of sync, while Diamond Auto Care slowed down the Runnin' Rebels en route to winning the opening games in the playoff round of the 2009 BANMI/Budweiser Basketball League Monday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.



Coming off a weeklong rest, IT&E was sluggish in its return to action, obviously missing the services of Kae Bernardo and Wowie Abuel, who were on Tinian playing in another league.

Docomo also missed Ryan Sanciango, but Mark Wallace and Kelvin Fitial stepped up early, combining for 20 of the team's total points in the first half to take a 29-15 lead.

David Palacios and Mel Manibusan, who rarely score in double figures in the regular season, also contributed in Docomo's offense, finishing with 13 and 10 markers, respectively.

With Abuel out, IT&E was left with only one offensive threat from outside in Sahnee Ranola, who notched 18 points, but still could not score in streaks. It did not help IT&E that Jun Estolas struggled in his game, making only two points.

Docomo's balance offense allowed the team to lead by as much as 15 points in the fourth period, 78-65, midway in that canto before IT&E

See DOCOMO on Page 26

Docomo's Mel Manibusan goes for a layup against IT&E's Pete Mendiola, partly hidden, during their play-off game in the Budweiser caging Monday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO



More than 1K take part in 23rd ARC Walkathon

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Local community members reaffirmed their support to the American Red Cross CNMI Chapter, as more than 1,000 participated in Saturday's 23rd Annual Walkathon.

The walkathon is the centerpiece of

various activities held at the 4H Building along Beach Road in Susupe. As early as 6am, walkers, who included babies in their strollers and some pet dogs, were seen cruising along Beach Road to the Garapan Fishing Base and back to the starting point in Susupe.

"We still have yet to get the exact See MORE on Page 26



American Red Cross



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

A family cruises along Beach Road early Saturday morning in support of the 23rd Annual Red Cross Walkathon.

Ayuyu hurls Rock Steady past Falcons

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER



Giovanni Ayuyu helped defending champion

Rock Steady rally in the eighth inning to beat the Falcons, 10-7, Friday night in the 2009 Budweiser Saipan Major League at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

Ayuyu's late-game heroics allowed Rock Steady to return to winning form following its loss to San Roque D-9ers the previous week.

Ayuyu moved from third base to the mound in the bottom of the seventh replacing starting pitcher Shane Mendilola with Rock Steady trailing, 5-7.

Prior to that, Rock Steady was on top at 5-2 but the Falcons came up with two runs on a string of fielding errors and wild pitches in the top of the sixth.

The Falcons then took the lead with one swing of the bat from slugger Ned Norita, which brought home three runners.

See AYUYU on Page 26



NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

Rock Steady reliever Giovanni Ayuyu in action in the top of the eighth inning of their 2009 Budweiser Saipan Major League game against the Falcons last Friday in the Francisco M. Palacios Ballfield.

6 pairs unbeaten in IT&E badminton tilt

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



The pair of Macoi Aguda and Saul Gargallo is among the six undefeated teams in the men's A division after two days of action in the 2009 IT&E Badminton Doubles Tournament held over the weekend at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Aguda and Gargallo won their first two matches to take the lead in the men's A division. They debuted with a 21-7, 21-18 victory over Edwin Montoya and Gary Bandoja Saturday and improved to a 2-0 record after a 21-14, 19-21, 21-12 triumph over Jerry Hibi and Eric Pena Sunday.

In second place with a 2-1 record is the duo of Hapi Gabriel and Robert Reyes, who lost their opening game to Hibi and Pena, 19-21, 24-22, 19-21. On Day 2, Gabriel and Reyes swept their

See 6 PAIRS on Page 26



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Macoi Aguda, right, serves while teammate Saul Gargallo looks on during their game against Jerry Hibi and Eric Pena in the men's A division of the 2009 IT&E Badminton Doubles Tournament Sunday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.